

... The Old Testament According to Jesus, *continued from p. 1*

prayers or their attendance at religious gatherings but, rather, by the degree to which they share God's passion with others. How we relate to those around us is a barometer that determines whether or not we've genuinely encountered and experienced God.

That's the message of the Old Testament: our love for God is measured by our love for others.

There's nothing to be afraid of. There's a richness waiting for us in the Old Testament that can beautify our lives!

... From the Front Line, *continued from p. 3*

the study, I gave Discover Guides to the pastor and his friends, which they are currently studying.

The following Sabbath, Beene and her husband came to church. I was very happy to see them. At church they heard an announcement that there was going to be a camp meeting and all were invited. They were interested in attending.

Beene managed to attend, but Tembo remained home because they have little children. When the preacher made an appeal for baptism this woman gave herself to Jesus and was baptized. When Tembo heard that his wife had been baptized, he regretted having not come. But we encouraged him to patiently wait, and he is very excited for his baptismal day to arrive.

As a couple they have found what they call the "hidden manna." Their request to Light Bearers is that they continue to produce the Discover Guides so that more people like themselves can hear the gospel and be saved.

we would see
jesus
a study through the gospel of john

JULY 3-7 / LIGHTBEARERS.ORG

JULY 2012

Events Schedule

- **July 3-7**
Light Bearers' Convocation, Jasper, OR
www.lightbearers.org • (541) 988-3333
Ty Gibson, James Rafferty,
David Asscherick & Jeffrey Rosario
- **July 18-20**
Oregon Camp Meeting, Gladstone, OR
www.oregonconference.org • (503) 850-3500
Ty Gibson
- **July 20-24**
GYC Europe
Linz, Austria • www.gyceurope.org
David Asscherick & Jeffrey Rosario
- **July 27-August 4**
Maritime Conference Camp Meeting
Nova Scotia, Canada • www.maritimemedia.ca
Ty Gibson
- **August 10-18**
Nairobi Camp Meeting, Karengata SDA Church
Kenya • omwocha@live.com
Jeffrey Rosario
- **August 18-25**
Loma Linda University Church, CA
www.lluc.org • (909) 558-4570
Ty Gibson
- **September 7-8**
Gorge Camp Meeting, Goldendale, WA
mathisen@gorge.net • (509) 493-1463
Ty Gibson
- **September 15; 28-30**
Springfield SDA Church, OR
(541) 746-8263
James Rafferty

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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

The Old Testament According to Jesus



By Jeffrey Rosario

Recently, I've had a renewed fascination with the Old Testament scriptures. It's the oldest historic writing in the world. There is no literature of its age or caliber in existence. The buck stops with good old Moses.

I know that many people are scared of the Old Testament. They don't grasp the essence of it. They don't see how it can impact their lives. But the significance and relevance of the Old Testament becomes really clear when we look at the life of Jesus. His numerous encounters with the religious leaders of the day shed light on the kind of influence that Old Testament ideals should have on a person's daily life and interaction with others.

Jesus often rebuked the religious leaders because though they thought they were righteous, they really weren't. And what were they missing?

You have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23).

But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone (Luke 11:42).

They merely focused on personal purity and piety, but neglected the essence of justice, mercy and love in relation to others. They had missed the whole point. And the fact that Jesus was stirred up about it is significant in itself. He expected them to live otherwise.

Why?

Because they had the Old Testament Scriptures. The New Testament didn't exist yet. The Old Testament is intended to lead us—in mind, heart and actions—to live out

the noble principles of justice, mercy and faithfulness.

Most people think the words "love your neighbor as yourself" are from the New Testament. Actually, they're originally found in Leviticus 19:18. The Golden Rule is an Old Testament concept that Jesus popularized in the New Testament.

Jesus didn't introduce these concepts later to 'clean up' or 'improve' the 'ugly stuff' in the Old Testament. That's where these ideals originate. They come from that part of the Bible with all the 'scary stuff'.

According to Jesus, a true and responsible reading of the Old Testament would produce the kind of people that are sensitive to the hurts and needs of others; people who are actively committed to making society a better place.

A person's knowledge of God is not measured by their frequent

continued on p. 4...

JULY 2012

CONSIDER THIS . . .

The standard of our obligation to others is found in what we ourselves would regard as their obligation to us. In your association with others, put yourself in their place. Enter into their feelings, their difficulties, their disappointments, their joys, and their sorrows. Identify yourself with them, and then do to them as, were you to exchange places with them, you would wish them to deal with you. This is the true rule of honesty. It is another expression of the law. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39. And it is the substance of the teaching of the prophets. It is a principle of heaven, and will be developed in all who are fitted for its holy companionship.

Ellen G. White
Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 134

The golden rule is the principle of true courtesy, and its truest illustration is seen in the life and character of Jesus. Oh, what rays of softness and beauty shone forth in the daily life of our Savior! What sweetness flowed from His very presence! The same spirit will be revealed in His children.

Ellen G. White
Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 135

The standard of the golden rule is the true standard of Christianity; anything short of it is a deception. A religion that leads men to place a low estimate upon human beings, whom Christ has esteemed of such value as to give Himself for them; a religion that would lead us to be careless of human needs, sufferings, or rights, is a spurious religion. In slighting the claims of the poor, the suffering, and the sinful, we are proving ourselves traitors to Christ. It is because men take upon themselves the name of Christ, while in life they deny His character, that Christianity has so little power in the world. The name of the Lord is blasphemed because of these things.

Ellen G. White
Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pp. 136-137

Search heaven and earth, and there is no truth revealed more powerful than that which is made manifest in works of mercy to those who need our sympathy and aid. This is the truth as it is in Jesus. When those who profess the name of Christ shall practice the principles of the golden rule, the same power will attend the gospel as in apostolic times.

Ellen G. White
Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 137

REPORTS FROM ZAMBIA



GOD'S WONDERFUL PROVIDENCE

By Enoch Chitalu

Recently I conducted an evangelistic series. I took a lot of the Bible lessons with me. My method was to recruit students to study with us. Day by day the number of students kept increasing until the whole village was saturated with the lessons. The Lord blessed and at the end of two weeks 27 were baptized.

After arriving home I was visited by a gentleman. I welcomed him and quickly asked him if he needed any help from me. He then told me his story.

He studied one of the lessons during the recent series. The Sabbath truth struck him, but he decided to ignore it. He began to have dreams every night, in which someone was telling him about the

Sabbath. This had been going on for days until he could not stand it anymore. So now he was coming to me for advice. I told him to make a decision and prayed with him. Two days after he left, he called me and told me that he has decided to accept the Sabbath. He is now preparing for baptism. Praise the Lord! He does not leave us to our folly, but yearns for all to be saved.



THE POWER OF THE BIBLE LESSONS

By Peter Chihungu

This is the story of Bupe Chongo, in his own words.

I live in an area where traditions have much power. Although some people are Christians, they still cling to traditions. They worship ancestors in the form of graven

images and shrines. People know little about God. They are not allowed to have Bibles to read for themselves. Elderly people tell us that if we read the Bible we may lose our important traditions.

One day my brother and I were going to the market. On my way home, we met a young man who was very friendly. He greeted us with a smile. After we greeted him back, he asked us if we wanted something to read about God. We asked him about this God. He told us, "If you will read these papers, they will tell you more about this God." We took the papers and started reading. We found them so interesting and were so excited to be able to read about and understand this God for ourselves. We finished the studies and handed them in for marking, after which, we graduated. That was in 2009. The things that I had read kept ringing in my mind from 2009 to 2011. The Holy Spirit convinced me to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I am in the baptism class now, waiting to be baptized. There is such power in these Bible lessons.

A FERTILE GROUND
By Friday Sinjela

We began meeting for studies with two people in Kakubo village because a woman by the name of Beene, after studying the Discover Guides, had questions concerning salvation that her husband, Tembo, could not answer. They decided to invite me to their home. I wrote all of their questions down and proposed that we begin meeting regularly. By the second day we had finished the questions but they still wanted to continue studying God's word concerning other matters. Tembo suggested that we study the mark of the beast.

Upon arrival I found that they had decided to invite their neighbor who was a Pentecostal pastor. The pastor had also decided to invite two of his friends to the meeting. After