

... Looking Back Over the Year, *continued from p. 1*

Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar and Angola. Please pray for the countless men and women that have, and the many more that will, encounter the Savior through this printed material.

As this year ends and the new year opens before us, it is with heartfelt appreciation that we thank you for your prayers and your financial support of Light Bearers Ministry.

... We Have This Hope, *continued from p. 3*

the meek and justice for the proud. The prophetic consummation of Revelation points to a time when the entire Earth will be enlightened, not with modern science but with the glory of God (Revelation 18:1). The idea being that God is not willing that any one person would be lost or fail to receive ample understanding of His goodness, despite man's badness (2 Peter 3:9). This same prophecy points to the complete failure of the economic system of this world under the code name "Babylon" (Revelation 18:1-24). Babylon reminds the wise of the complacent attitude of the wealthy and powerful at the very time when disaster is walking through the door (Daniel 5:26-30). Jesus predicted an eat, drink, and party attitude leading up to His second coming in Matthew 24:37-39.

Matthew 24

Speaking of the signs that would portend His return and bring an end to pain and evil, Jesus said that false teachers would abound, and that wars, famine, and disease would escalate like a woman in labor (becoming more intense and frequent). "Then" He foretold a time when all the nations of the world would unite in hatred for a people who insist that the gospel and second coming of Jesus is the only remedy for our planet (Matthew 24:14). As this final crisis builds, false teachers increase and deception becomes so great that even God's "elect" are in danger of being deceived (Matthew 24:24).

The Bible also warns us that Satan himself will appear as an "angel of light" and his demons as "ministers of righteousness" (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Their purpose is to personate heavenly messengers and Jesus Himself, presenting another gospel, another Jesus and another spirit (2 Corinthians 11:4).

The deception will be overwhelming to those who have not received "the love of the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10). Yet, no one need be deceived. The trouble in our world can be understood as a daily confirmation of the biblical reality pointing us to something better. Jesus is coming again! This present world is just temporary. Someday soon, there will be a new heaven and a new earth with no pain, no tears, no death (Revelation 21:1-4). Dear friend, Jesus is preparing a place for you in that world made new, if you will have it.

This blessed hope is why we do what we do. We are light bearers for Jesus. Not because we work at this specific ministry, but because we work for Jesus, the true Light that lights everyone that comes into this world. We are doing our part, feeble and defective though we are (and we truly are), to hasten the blessed Hope. Amen.

DECEMBER 2012

Events Schedule

- **December 15**
Springfield SDA Church, OR
(541) 746-8263
Ty Gibson
- **December 28-January 1**
GYC, Seattle, WA
www.gycweb.org
Ty Gibson, David Asscherick, Jeffrey Rosario
- **January 5-12**
Simi Valley SDA Church, CA
(805) 526-0141
Ty Gibson
- **January 12**
Turning Point SDA Church, OR
(541) 492-1300
James Rafferty
- **January 16-19**
Anchors of Truth, 3ABN
www.3ABN.org • (269) 968-8101
Ty Gibson
- **January 26**
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
(541) 937-3526
James Rafferty
- **February 1-10**
Pasco Riverview Adventist Church
(509) 547-4998
James Rafferty
- **February 16**
Fall Creek SDA Church, OR
(541) 937-3526
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

Looking Back Over 2012

As 2012 ends, we here at Light Bearers Ministry are rejoicing at how God has led. Here's a recap of the year:

- In January we launched the ARISE Internship Program. Eight students from our 2011 graduating class stayed on for one year of additional training, mentoring and community ministry. We have grown close to these quality young people and have found great joy in watching them employ their skills to advance God's kingdom and flourish as individuals. As we launch into 2013, some of them will remain with us and become Bible workers on the University of Oregon campus.
- 2012 marked the 10-year anniversary of Cornerstone, the main ARISE Discipleship Training Course. Preparatory to the 2012 class, we spent two weeks completely recreating the entire program—re-visioning, restructuring and rewriting the curriculum from the ground up. What emerged is a new program that teaches the full end-time message within a storyline narrative of God's faithful love for humanity. Currently we have 45 students enrolled in the course who will be graduating this

month (December). As teachers, we love the new approach, and the response from the students has been overwhelmingly positive.

- Light Bearers Ministry has a team of four on-fire preachers: Jeffrey Rosario, James Rafferty, David Asscherick and Ty Gibson. In 2012, they held meetings throughout the US and in various countries around the world, including Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, France, Portugal, Canada, Guatemala, Austria and Czech Republic.
- In May, we held a two-week Bible Boot Camp on the campus of Avondale College in Australia. More than 350 people enrolled. The enthusiasm was super high. Session by session, the truth for our time was unfolded within the illuminating context of God's beautiful character of love. For many of our Australian brothers and sisters, this event brought personal revival and restored their motivation to share the gospel. Growing out of this event, and previous sets of meetings we've held Downunder, Light Bearers, in partnership with the North New South Wales Conference, will be

launching our full-length Cornerstone program in Australia, beginning this coming year.

- A number of new blogs and video messages were uploaded to our website in 2012, and are being added continually. If you have not explored lightbearers.org recently, please do. Ever at your fingertips, you will find this website to be a rich source of spiritual insight.
- New videos have recently been added to digma.com, and more are coming in 2013. This is a project specifically intended for reaching unbelievers, people who know little about God or the Bible, but have questions and curiosity. The digma videos are short (about 7 minutes each), engaging and packed with carefully constructed insights into the character of God. You can click on any video, write a personal email message, and send it to a friend, acquaintance or family member to generate discussion. We hope you'll make this a tool for sharing your faith.
- More than 22 million truth-filled publications flew off our press this year. Countries that received shipments of literature include Jamaica,

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DECEMBER 2012

CONSIDER THIS . . .

The giving of the gospel to the world is the work that God has committed to those who bear His name. For earth's sin and misery the gospel is the only antidote. To make known to all mankind the message of the grace of God is the first work of those who know its healing power.

Ellen G. White
The Ministry of Healing, p. 141

But we are called . . . to witness to the Light, to direct the minds of others to Him, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Ellen G. White
The Youth's Instructor
May 25, 1893

Through the merits of Christ we are to let our light shine forth to the world, that they, by seeing our good works, may glorify our Father which is in heaven.

Ellen G. White
*Testimonies to the Church
Regarding Individual
Responsibility and Christian
Unity*, p. 38

True conversion is followed by a desire to share Jesus. A man is no sooner converted than in his heart is born a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus; the saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. The Spirit of Christ illuminating the soul is represented by the light, which dispels all darkness; it is compared to salt, because of its preserving qualities; and to leaven, which secretly exerts its transforming power.

Ellen G. White
Testimonies for the Church
vol. 4, pp.. 318-319

The true missionary spirit is the spirit of Christ. The world's Redeemer was the great model missionary. Many of His followers have labored earnestly and unselfishly in the cause of human salvation; but no man's labor can bear comparison with the self-denial, the sacrifice, the benevolence, of our Exemplar. . . . Every true Christian will possess a missionary spirit, for to be a Christian is to be Christlike.

Ellen G. White
Testimonies for the Church
vol. 5, pp. 385-386

You represent Christ in true goodness of character, and understand what these words signify: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. . . . And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace" (John 1:14-16). You receive grace, you develop grace; and as you reveal grace in your words, in your spirit and actions, God pours upon you a larger measure of grace. In proportion as you surrender yourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit you are supplied with heavenly grace. You are molded and fashioned a vessel unto honor, and become a channel through which God makes manifest His grace to the world.

Ellen G. White
That I May Know Him, p. 276

WE HAVE THIS HOPE



By James Rafferty

The Bible calls it the "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13), which seems to make more and more sense considering the political, economic, and social climate of the world today. There are over 300 references to the second coming of Christ in the New Testament alone. And though written some 2,000 years ago, they describe with uncanny accuracy our present day problems that seem to have no political cure. Consider the words of Jesus in John 14:1-3:

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

Homelessness

Obviously Jesus knew that we would find a lot to trouble us in this present world, like homelessness. At a time of incredible advances in science and technology, while billions are spent to explore space, children don't have their own place to live. Even in affluent

America there are more homeless children (1.6 million) than ever before. Jesus suggested that the remedy for this trouble is in the promise of His return to take us to where He now is—heaven. He assures us that heaven is a real place with "mansions," or rooms, that are being prepared for us. Reminds me of when my son comes home from college. We get his room ready and look forward to seeing him again. As our son always has a place with us in our home, so Jesus promises that we have a place with Him, a mansion in His home. No one will be homeless then. No foreclosures, no living on the street, or in your car.

Disease and Death

Jesus couched the blessed hope of His return around real issues facing the world today. He spoke of international pestilence (Matthew 24:7). In a time when advanced medical technology is overshadowed by rampant disease, the promise of the Second Coming points us to an eternal cure. We are assured of a glorious body free of disease, pain, and suffering (Philippians 3:20-21; I Corinthians 15:50-55).

When death separates dearest loved ones, family, friends and little children, the Bible says the Second Coming will put the Grim Reaper out of a job (I like that kind of unemployment). Death's grip will be broken by the voice of Jesus and the trumpet call of heaven. All who have placed their

faith in Jesus will escape the clutches of the grave (and gravity). Their feet will leave this present terra firma to meet Jesus in the air (along with their loved ones). And there will be no more goodbyes (I Thessalonians 4:16-18).

Corporate Greed

The Second Coming has a solemn message for those involved in corporate greed. Your power, your perjury, your disdain for Planet Earth, will not last. You who seem to take little thought about destroying this earth (you know who you are)—genetically modifying the food supply for your own gain, fomenting war for the sale of weapons, plundering the resources of weaker nations for profit—soon your time will end (consider this a two minute warning). The Second Coming is a heavenly STOP sign. It brings the nations of this world back under the full dominion of God. The rogue rule of maniac men will be over. Read it for yourself:

"Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! . . . The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should

destroy those who destroy the earth'" (Revelation 11:15, 18).

Presently, we sense the rising anger of the nations and the growing wrath of God who slowly allows us to reap the consequences of our evil ways. Man's final efforts to fix this broken world will crumble to pieces, dashed by the Rock of Daniel's vision.

Daniel 2

The prophecy in Daniel 2 is universally understood as an outline of the history of Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome leading down to divided Europe. Every detail of this Bible prophecy finds amazing fulfillment in the history of our world, leaving us little doubt that the final detail, the return of Jesus to establish an everlasting kingdom, will not fail. Every major prophecy of Daniel ends with the promise of the Second Coming when the saints inherit the kingdom (Daniel 7:22, 27); when evil is broken by God's hand (Daniel 8:25); when Michael stands to deliver those who trust in Him (Daniel 12:1). Every major news event, whether financial, social, or environmental, gives us a growing feeling that we cannot deliver ourselves, that earthly kingdoms are crumbling.

Revelation

The prophecies of Revelation supplement Daniel's prophecies, promising deliverance from evil for