



RISË RAFFERTY
health educator

INDESTRUCTIBLE

I LEARNED ABOUT THE One World Futbol on a rather deflating day. Turning on the radio mid-conversation, I soon learned that a virtually indestructible ball had been created, not for those who could easily obtain a new one when theirs became old and flat, but for those for whom a ball was virtually

irreplaceable. The target population for this toy was the mass of children who love ball so much they will use anything they can find to form a spherical shaped mass that can be kicked around.

A few of these balls were given to a Rwandan child soldier rehabilitation camp.

By the age of eight these children had experienced

murdering at least three people. Unwittingly, these balls became a tremendous therapeutic tool.

Yes, the children needed to learn how to play, but there was something more. A truck could run over a ball that had been accidentally kicked in the road leaving it tortilla flat, and after a brief pause,

ffsssss, regain its bounce. Here was something reliable. Here was something hardy and durable; something that could bounce back. These children needed to learn resiliency. From right where they are, with the trauma, guilt, damage, and scars of the past upon them—

“BY BEING KNOCKED DOWN AND RECOVERING, WE LEARN OF THE SUPERNATURAL ‘FFSSSSS.’”

ffsssss—they could bounce again.

Resiliency is a quality absolutely essential in the followers of Christ. Preparatory to being able to endure and stand in the future will be lessons of faith learned now, promises proved through times of discouragement and despair. The Bible says, “For the righteous falls seven times and rises again” (Proverbs 24:16, ESV). The righteous learn what it takes to get back up again, and again, and again. By being knocked down and recovering, we learn of the supernatural ‘ffsssss.’

“We are troubled on every side,

continued on page 4...





DAVID ASSCHERICK
co-director

LEAVES OF HOPE HEALING AND HOME

EMILY BRONTE, IN HER poem *Fall, Leaves, Fall*, writes:

*Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.*

Here in Oregon, as I write this, autumn has come and (nearly) gone. Leaves are aground wherever one looks—golden yellow, ochre red, and a million hues besides. Each one tells a story, a tale of what was, and of what will yet be.

They are tales of present death, but also of promised life. In their own uniquely colorful way, each announces that death now reigns, but life—*spring!*—is yet coming. Though not before winter’s cold night.

For me, this autumn in particular, saw my thoughts turning to . . . Light Bearers, the ministry I’m privileged and

honored to be a part of. Why so?

Chiefly, the iconic phrase from the pen of Ellen White, repeated in various statements, and at various times, “scattered like the leaves of autumn.” Here are three favorites:

“Publications must be multiplied, and scattered like the leaves of autumn. These silent messengers are enlightening and molding the minds of thousands in every country and in every clime” (*Review and Herald*, Nov. 21, 1878).

“Let the publications containing Bible truth be scattered like the leaves of autumn. Lift Him up,

the Savior of souls, lift Him up higher and still higher” (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 323).

“Unvarnished truth must be spoken in leaflets and pamphlets, and these must be scattered like the leaves of autumn” (*Testimonies*

“LITERATURE, TO PUT IT FUNNILY, IS SKINNIER THAN MOST EVANGELISTS AND PASTORS, AND IS ABLE TO GO PLACES WHERE PEOPLE JUST CAN’T GO.”

for the Church, vol. 9, p. 230).

Ellen White’s vision was clear and committed along these lines. She knew then what we also know now, that people can read themselves into the truth, and into a deepening relationship with Him who is the truth. That truth-filled literature can evangelize, disciple, counsel, comfort, pastor, mobilize, and admonish.

AUTUMN IN JAMAICA

In 2012, Light Bearers shipped 1,964,118 pieces of literature to Jamaica. That’s one truth-filled publication for every 1.3 people in the country!

THE POWER OF PUBLISHING

“The press is a powerful instrumentality which God has ordained to be combined with the energies of the living preacher to bring the truth before all nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples. Many minds can be reached in no other way” (*Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, pp. 226-227).

‘LEAF’LETS

Each container that leaves Light Bearers is filled with between 1 and 2 million pieces of literature—about the same as the number of leaves on a large oak tree.

But there's more.

Literature, to put it funnily, is skinnier than most evangelists and pastors, and is able to go places where people just can't go. It can slide under a door or beneath a windshield wiper, for example.

So there are two important points here, literature's *effectiveness* and literature's *accessibility*. Ellen White well understood this, and she wanted others to understand it. Thus her phrase "scattered like the leaves of autumn." The picture is compellingly beautiful in its simplicity. It speaks of volume and even of randomness. Here where I live, for example, the leaves can be so thick so as to blanket the ground, making the underlying grass invisible. That's a lot of leaves! In her own places of residence, Maine and Michigan come to mind, the autumn leaves are similarly prolific. Ellen White understood the force of the metaphor, and used it repeatedly and intentionally.

We here at Light Bearers understand the force and beauty of the metaphor. We are unswervingly committed to seeing her vision become a reality. This last year, 2012, we saw nearly 25 million pieces of gospel literature leave our presses. The year before, nearly 30 million. Since Light Bearers' inception, 25 years ago, more than a half a billion.

Half a billion.

You know what that sounds like?

The leaves of autumn.

Sometimes I find myself just wandering around the publishing house. The smell of the ink, the roar of the press, the cacophony of the folding machine, the looming stacks of enormous paper rolls, it is beautiful, in a noisy, smelly, and mechanical way. It is a sanctuary of sorts. I love running my hands over the impossibly large stacks of printed, but not yet folded, tracts.

As I do so, my mind inevitably races to places and faces far afield. Angola. Mozambique. Guatemala. Philippines. Albania. Russia. Peru. And so many more.

My hands touch the same paper that other hands will touch and hold and cherish. I think of the ones who will read these pages. My heart goes to places that my body may never see. These tracts, by the millions, like the roots and branches of an enormous vine

"MY HANDS TOUCH THE SAME PAPER THAT OTHER HANDS WILL TOUCH AND HOLD AND CHERISH."

connect us to each of them, and them to us, and Christ to us all.

Each tract, containing "unvarnished truth," has a tale to tell. Like the leaves of autumn, which tell of spring to come, and of the promised passing of winter's

death, this paper tells of Jesus Christ and His message of truth. They bring hope to places where hope is often in short supply. They bring life to places where death is apparently



king. They bring joy to places where sorrows are multiplied. They bring healing to places where wounds are deep. They bring the promise of home to places where orphans abound. They bring Jesus.

*Every leaf speaks bliss to me
Fluttering from the autumn tree.*

God, O God, prosper this,
Thy work.

COME SEE US!

JANUARY 5-12 / CALIFORNIA

Simi Valley Adventist Church
805.526.0141
Ty Gibson

JANUARY 12 / OREGON

Turning Point Adventist Church
541.492.1300
James Rafferty

JANUARY 16-19 / 3ABN

Anchors of Truth
www.3abn.org / 269.968.8101
Ty Gibson

JANUARY 19 / OREGON

Roseburg Adventist Church
541.672.1542
James Rafferty

JANUARY 26 / OREGON

Fall Creek Adventist Church
541.937.3526
James Rafferty

FEBRUARY 1-10 / WASHINGTON

Pasco Riverview Adventist Church
509.547.4998
James Rafferty

FEBRUARY 16 / OREGON

Fall Creek Adventist Church
541.937.3526
James Rafferty

FEBRUARY 20-23 / 3ABN

Anchors of Truth
www.3abn.org / 269.968.8101
James Rafferty


LIGHT BEARERS

... **INDESTRUCTIBLE** *(continued from page 1)*

yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8). Like Jesus, His followers will become masters of their circumstances. Their lives will “be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 679). Whether the fighting is from within or without, in times of elation or deflation, with repentance and determination we know where to get refilled. The

promise is sure. He will “renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31). He will “renew a right spirit within me” (Psalms 51:10). Literally translated the word spirit means breath, the heavenly fsssss.

The One World Futbol was even given to a zoo lion. Fang, jaw, or claw did not destroy this ball. No, not even a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour will hold us down. To me, that kind of design sounds . . . indestructible.

ARISE

FEBRUARY 25 - MAY 19, 2013

We are thrilled to announce ARISE Australia coming in 2013. This 12-week ARISE Cornerstone program affords each student a total immersion experience in ministry. Intense in-class instruction augmented by genuine “in the community” ministry provides the perfect cornerstone for building a Christ-centered, life long personal ministry.

INSTRUCTORS *David Asscherick, Ty Gibson, James Rafferty, Jeffrey Rosario, and Matt Parra*

INFORMATION www.ariseaustralia.org