



TY GIBSON
co-director

NOT LETTER BUT SPIRIT

AS I TOOK MY seat on the plane, an energetic little boy came up the aisle with his dad. In my mind I thought, “I sure hope he’s not gonna be in the seat behind me.” As a frequent flyer, I know short legs tend to kick seatbacks.

As he walked past me, he smiled. Or was it a menacing grin?

Sure enough, his seat was behind mine. In a matter of seconds, the kicking began. For the first hour his father repeatedly scolded him, threatening the little guy: “If you don’t stop kicking that man’s seat, you’re going to be in big trouble. Is that what you want, big trouble?”

It was all to no avail. I got the distinct impression that all the threatening dad could heap on the little rebel was only stimulating more rebellion in him. So I took the matter into my own hands. Turning around in my seat, I looked up over the seatback and said, “Hi, my name’s Ty.” I reached my hand down offering to shake his. Hesitantly, he grabbed mine. Smiling, I said, “What’s your name?”

“Quentin,” he said, not yet trusting me.

“Cool name. As soon as I saw you, I knew you must have a cool name,” I said with a corny laugh. He laughed in response. Now we had a connection. I

pulled out a piece of paper and drew a funny picture of him with his name over it. He laughed again. Now he liked me and we had relationship, or at least the beginning of one.

Then I said, “Hey Quentin, I’m gonna try to read, so don’t kick my seat, OK?”

“OK, Ty,” he said with a smile. And he never kicked again.

Paul had something like this in mind when he said that we are “ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2 Corinthians 3:6).

It’s all a matter of how we represent the character of God in our approach to people. People are responsive to relationships

and resistant to pressure. We can either hand them “the letter” of the law, expressing the truth in terms of requirement and forbidding, oughts and nots, in which case we can expect failed promises at

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best, rebellion at worst, or we can present the heart of God, as revealed in Christ, and watch them warm up and become affectionately responsive to Him.

The term “new covenant” is jam-packed with brilliant significance. It basically means, *the Law of God internally formed by the motive power of love as opposed to externally imposed by the self-defeating cycle of guilt.*

Paul goes on to articulate the powerful engine that drives the new covenant:

“We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,

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JAMES RAFFERTY
co-director

A DOUBLE WORK

TRAVELING ALL OVER THE world from place to place to share the gospel as part of the Light Bearers Ministry (LBM) team is especially rewarding when hearts are healed and lives transformed by the power of God. Many of you are reading these words because you attended a series of meetings in your area and now receive our monthly newsletter. The *Mission Update* offers ongoing spiritual encouragement, communicates the latest on the mission of LBM and offers timely health tips in the newly formatted *Alive* articles.

Some of you have confessed, though, that the health section is the first section you turn to (you know who you are). Others have shared how the health article was the right information at the just the right time for a personal need.

Often extra copies of the health article have been ordered to share

with friends and relatives or to be placed in doctors' offices and other outreach venues (this is one of the reasons *Alive* is a stand-alone tract). We recognize that the circulation of our health publications is a most important work. It is a work in which all who believe the special truths for this time should have an interest. Now, as never before, the minds of the people everywhere are being deeply stirred to investigate the principles underlying true health transformation.

When Risë and I began dating 25 years ago we believed God was calling us to do a double work for Him,

combining the gospel and health. After we were married, we traveled everywhere together with Risë giving a short health lecture before I preached. We experienced that in giving attention to this branch of the work, prejudice was removed from

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minds that had been barred from the reception of truth. We still believe that this matter must not be passed over as nonessential. When people become intelligent on the question of health reform, the way is prepared to give attention to the present truth for these last days. In this way, our health literature is the helping hand of the gospel, opening the way for the truth to enter.

In His dealing with men, Jesus sought to prepare the mind for the reception of truth. He made

PREACH IT

“Canvassers should bring the health publications to the notice of those they visit, telling them how useful they are in the treatment of disease.”

- Ellen White

PRACTICE IT

“All who believe and proclaim the truth should not only practice health reform, but teach it diligently to others. This will be a strong agency in calling the attention of the unbelieving to consider that if we are intelligent upon this subject in regard to healthful diet and practices, we would be sound on the subjects of Bible doctrine.”

- Ellen White

THE WORLD NEEDS IT

“There are many in the world who are anxious to know more in regard to these [health] principles.”

- Ellen White

inroads into the mind by the gentle introduction of light and by healing them physically.

True religion and the laws of health go hand in hand. It is impossible to work for the salvation

“WHEN SOMEONE’S PERSONAL HEALTH IS HELPED, AN INTEREST IS CREATED THAT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PIQUED, TO SEE OR READ ANYTHING ABOUT IMPORTANT BIBLE SUBJECTS.”

of men and women without presenting to them the need of breaking away from gratifications which destroys health, debases our soul, and prevents divine truth from impressing the mind.

When someone’s personal health is helped, an interest is created that may not have been piqued, to see or read anything about important Bible subjects. Truth that comes to people on the return of health grabs their attention.

Many people are down-and-out and often looked upon as hopeless, but when one comes disinterestedly seeking to encourage them, taking an interest in their physical well-being, they will come to respect the genuine interest in their spiritual well-being also. Then their lives can be radically changed and God can use them to reach out to others. This is one reason why LBM wants to fill your hands with good health material while God fills your hearts with the love of Christ for others.

We need to, “Educate, educate, educate.”¹ Young people can go out among the crowds, doing their utmost

to share health principles, because, as never before, there are many in the world who are anxious to know more in regard to a better lifestyle.

Now is the time to focus more attention on the circulation of the health principles. Every member of the church should work earnestly to share health literature as much as we do gospel literature.

Risë and I have seen in our united ministry that there is no friction between the gospel and health. They blend together in perfect unity.

The health message will reach people that otherwise would never have been reached by the truth. There is a great necessity for labor being put forth to help the people,

believers and unbelievers, at the present time by health talks and publications. This is why Light Bearers has made the health message a consistent part of our ministry, in meetings, publications and at our yearly convocation. This message, we believe, has a permanent place in the proclamation of the gospel to all the world. The Lord has shown His regard for it by giving it abundant prosperity. And God will continue to prosper every effort you make in the Spirit of Christ to minister to a hurting world through the combination of the health message and the gospel. Amen!

¹ Ellen White, *Colporteur Ministry*, pp. 131-134.



COME SEE US!

APRIL 5-7 / CANADA

Cariboo Central SDA Church, BC
250.392.1905 / www.caribooadventist.ca
James Rafferty

APRIL 6 / NEW JERSEY

ANEW, Princeton University
www.anew-web.org
Jeffrey Rosario

APRIL 10-19 / OREGON

Stone Tower SDA Church, Portland
Watch online (www.stonetowersda.org)
James Rafferty

APRIL 19-27 / AUSTRALIA

North New South Wales Big Camp
Convention Centre, Stuarts Point, NSW
61 (2) 4951.8088
Ty Gibson & David Asscherick

APRIL 20 / OREGON

Laurelwood SDA Church, Gaston
503-985-3207
Jeffrey Rosario

APRIL 26-28 / SPAIN

ASI Spain, Barcelona
info@asi-spain.org
Jeffrey Rosario

MAY 17-19 / CONNECTICUT

ASI Atlantic Union, Greenwich
www.asiatlanticunion.org
Jeffrey Rosario

... **NOT LETTER, BUT SPIRIT** (continued from page 1)

just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Beholding the beauty of God's character in Christ is the catalyst for transformation in the new covenant. In Christ, God extended His hand and His heart to us. He knew that merely dictating rules

would never change our hearts.

But when we look into His face and realize He likes us, everything changes. Now we're eager to do what pleases Him.

CROSStraining

WHAT IS IT?

A 9-day discipleship program that teaches you how to share gospel-centered Bible studies.

WHERE IS IT?

Jasper, Oregon

WHEN IS IT?

June 14-22, 2013

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

www.lightbearers.org or 541.988.3333


LIGHT BEARERS