



**JAMES RAFFERTY**  
co-director

## WHY A NEW POPE IS GOOD NEWS

IN 1929, THE ITALIAN Parliament ratified the Lateran Treaty settling the Roman Question and setting the stage for what some have since described as the healing of *the* deadly wound. Somewhere between that time and today, an idea developed that has since taken many minds captive.

This idea was that from 1929 to the second coming of Jesus there will be exactly

seven popes, and the seventh one would reign for a “short time.”

With a surface study of Revelation 17 in one hand and a February 12, 1929 *San Francisco Chronicle* headline, “healed wound of many years” in the other, advocates felt they had a valid

Bible prophecy (though

our pioneers taught a much longer healing process dating back to the 19th century).

When Pope Benedict was elected, he was the 7th since 1929. And since he was 78, it did not appear that he would be in office very long and it seemed that the final crisis could burst forth at any time. However, Pope Benedict remained in office more than a “short space.” His reign was in fact longer than two of the previous popes noted in this

interpretation (3. Pope John XXIII and 5. Pope John Paul I).

In addition, the election of Pope Francis I shows the interpretation to be false as he is the eighth since 1929. This fact, and that of the

**“GOD IS WAITING FOR PEOPLE, NOT POPES.”**

previous pope, number 7 who did not reign only for a short time or usher in the final events, was a crushing disappointment for some.

Many who have advocated this theory were devastated by the election of another pope. But for me at least, another pope was good news. The election of Pope Francis I helped debunk yet another newspaper interpretation. The gospel has survived a number of more recent false theories about the Second Coming, like Y2K, repeated Harold Camping predictions, the Mayan calendar scare, and now the 1929 interpretation.

The apostle might have included some of these predictions in his “rubbish” bin while directing us to

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**DAVID ASSCHERICK**  
co-director

# JUST LIKE THE CROSS

**I GET ADMITTEDLY NERVOUS** when I hear these words: “Pastor Asscherick, you changed my life.” You see, I’m not in the life-changing business; I’m just a messenger, a mail carrier. The biblical term is *evangelist*, one who carries a message.

That’s me.

My response has, over the years, become reflexive: “Well, thank you, but I’m sure it was Jesus Christ who changed your life, not me.”

“Yes, yes, of course,” is usually the reply. Or something like it. The point is taken, on both sides. I appreciate the affirmation, yes, but I appreciate the accuracy even more.

Jesus Christ is in the life-changing business, and He is awesome at it. For my part, I find it easy to “sell” and “tell” such a successful and consistent “product.” They say that Porsche salesmen do little more than hand out keys, because the cars sell

themselves. I like that. That’s what we evangelists do: hand out keys, “the keys of the kingdom” (Matthew 16:19), no less! What we’re offering is better than any Porsche, however.

On my most recent trip to New Zealand, admittedly my favorite country on earth, I heard those words again: “Pastor Asscherick, you changed my life.” The man was dark-skinned, round-faced and smiled a smile that was as much eyes as mouth. His whole face radiated a joy that was as pure and beaming as I’ve seen. I liked him already. He introduced himself as Demcy, then told me a story that warmed my heart deeply.

Demcy had been living with his wife, Thrace, and three children, all boys, in Christchurch. He

and Thrace had moved from Sri Lanka many years before. Raised a Roman Catholic, Demcy had a genuine, though not always enthusiastic, interest in spiritual things. He believed, sure, but not particularly deep. This, though, was about to change.

**“JESUS CHRIST IS IN THE LIFE-CHANGING BUSINESS, AND HE IS AWESOME AT IT.”**

After seeing flyers and billboards around town advertising a meeting, *What Does the Future Hold?*, Demcy finally, on February 21, showed up. His heart thrilled with the truth he was hearing! This was the God of love and freedom He’d been looking for, and that he’d always believed was there, somewhere!

## FAILURE IS NOT FAILURE

“If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving the one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master’s cause . . .”

- Ellen White

## THEY’RE EVERYWHERE!

“All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.”

- Ellen White

## AT HOME AND ABROAD

“The missionary work in Australia and New Zealand is yet in its infancy, but the same work must be accomplished in Australia, New Zealand, in Africa, India, China, and the islands of the sea, as has been accomplished in the home field.”

- Ellen White

He left committed not to miss another meeting, but, alas, an unforeseeable disaster intervened.

At 12:50 in the afternoon on February 22nd, beautiful, serene, and quaint Christchurch was racked by a powerful earthquake that

**“A FAMILY TORN FROM THEIR HOME CITY BY AN EARTH-SHAKING QUAKE, WERE NOW UNITED IN JESUS CHRIST BY HIS LIFE-CHANGING TRUTH!”**

killed hundreds, and shattered the lives, businesses, and confidence of thousands. It all happened in about 20 seconds.

The city, more than two years later, is still picking up the pieces and will be for another decade at least. This was the second such earthquake in less than six months, and though this one was weaker on the Richter scale than its predecessor, its shallowness, speed, and location made it far worse and many times more deadly.

Demcy, like many others, loaded his family in the car that very day and drove away from their beloved city. In Demcy’s case, they drove all the way north to Auckland. He spent the next two months looking for a new job and returning to Christchurch to transport his remaining things to Auckland. His whole life was in a great upheaval; he longed for solidity, hope, and deeper meaning.

He remembered that single meeting he’d attended and googled

the presenter, “David Asscherick.” To his happy surprise, he found a set of similar prophecy lectures that I’d delivered before. He watched them day and night. He was surprised to learn, toward the end of the lecture series, that I was a Seventh-day Adventist. Nevertheless, he was persuaded that what he’d found was the truth. The next

Sabbath he attended a local Seventh-day Adventist church.

The local pastor faithfully mentored, encouraged, and disciplined Demcy and his wife, and soon they were baptized! A family torn from their home city by an earth-shaking quake, were now united in Jesus Christ by His life-changing truth! Demcy is now a deacon in his local church, and his mother, who still

lives in Sri Lanka, is studying for baptism! She has even made her business, a hotel, available for Sabbath

meetings in her town, which the local Seventh-day Adventists have been thrilled to put to use already!

God’s ripple effects are greater than any earthquake.

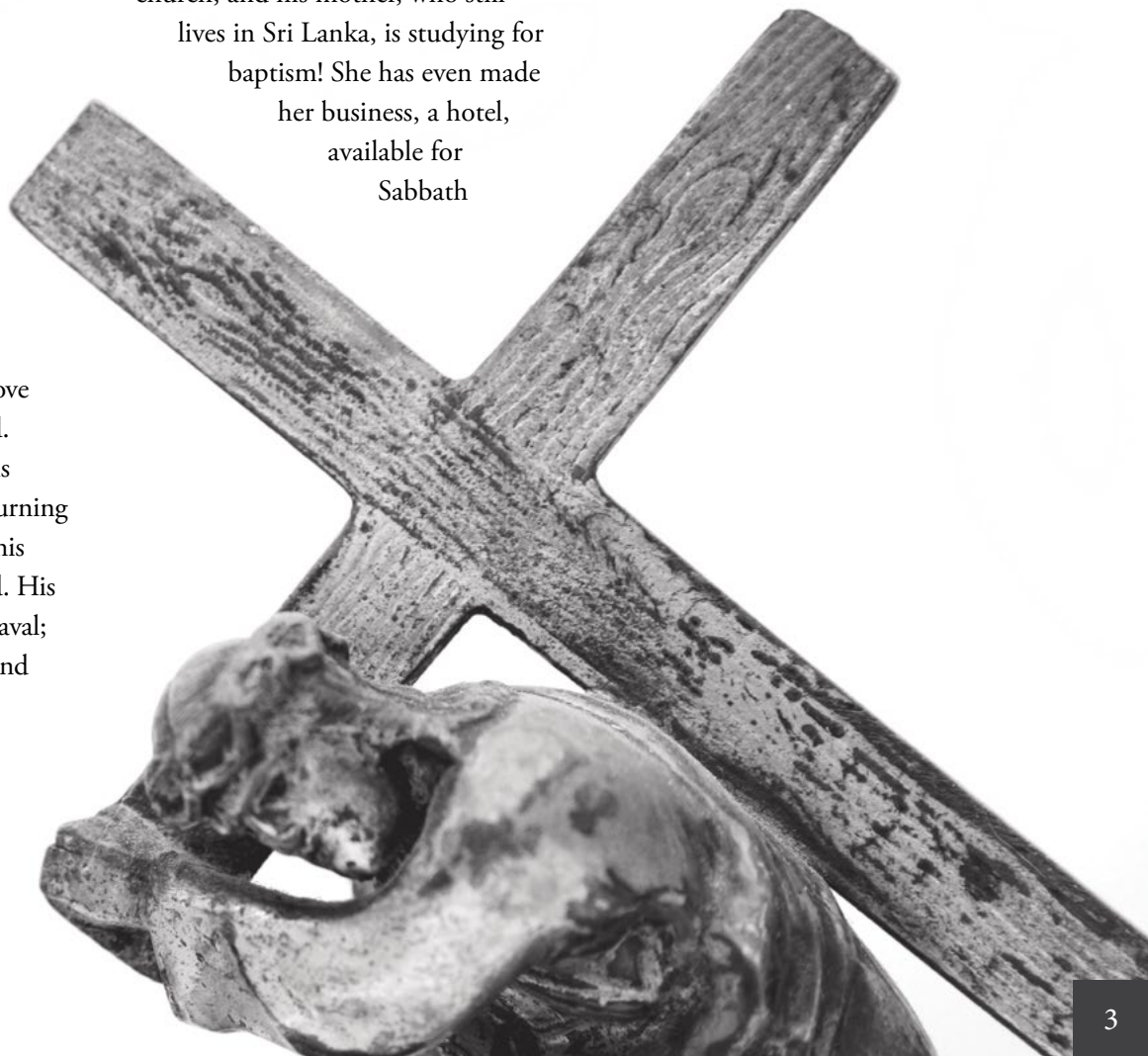
That meeting, from my perspective, sure looked like a grand failure after it’d been abruptly stopped halfway through and resumed rather weakly nearly a month later.

But sometimes what looks like failure is really a great success!

Just like the Cross!

Just ask Demcy!

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# COME SEE US!

## MAY 17-19 / CONNECTICUT

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

## MAY 27-31 / NORTH CAROLINA

Carolina Conference Camp Meeting  
Lake Junalaska, North Carolina  
704.596.3200 / www.carolinasda.com  
Ty Gibson

## JUNE 3-7 / ZAMBIA

OCI Leadership Retreat  
Riverside Farm Institute, Kafue  
rfi@zamnet.zm  
James Rafferty

## JUNE 9-15 / ANGOLA

Luanda  
info@sid.adventist.org  
James Rafferty

## JUNE 14-22 / OREGON

CROSstraining  
541.988.3333 / www.lightbearers.org  
Jasper, Oregon

## JUNE 20-23 / WASHINGTON

Conference Camp Meeting, Auburn  
253.681.6008  
www.washingtonconference.org  
Ty Gibson

## JUNE 21 / WASHINGTON

Upper Columbia Camp Meeting, Spangle  
509.242.0512 / kathym@uccsda.org  
David Asscherick

LIGHT BEARERS

## ... WHY A NEW POPE IS GOOD NEWS *(continued from page 1)*

“mature” our minds in the message of Christ our “Righteousness” (Philippians 3:8-15, NKJV). I hope you share our burden for this message that will “swallow up” all others (*Review & Herald Extra*, Dec. 23, 1890).

God is waiting for people, not popes. Not until the light of the character of the love of God illumines the darkness of every

human being on Planet Earth, will we see a final end to sin and suffering. Amen.

Light Bearers has a complete outline on Revelation 17 [The Woman and the Beast] available as a free download from our website:

[www.lightbearers.org/unlocking-revelation/](http://www.lightbearers.org/unlocking-revelation/)

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1 Peter 3:15

**set** i am to give an answer...  
Phillipians 1:17

**go!** ye therefore...  
Matthew 28:19

**JUNE 14 - 22, 2013**  
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Space is limited.  
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541.988.3333