



FRED BISCHOFF
adventist pioneer library

ADVENTIST PIONEER LIBRARY MERGES WITH LIGHT BEARERS

STORIES . . . HOW IMPORTANT

is our past? Moses put it this way for those in his day, “Take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, . . . but teach them . . .” (Deuteronomy 4:9).

Could this still be applicable to us?

Twenty-five years ago a ministry was born in response to similar but more recent counsel. In 1903, Ellen White addressed those in her day, “We must do as the Lord directed Moses to do Moses was bidden to rehearse to them all the dealings of the Lord to them during their journeyings through the wilderness The record of the experience through which the people of God passed in the early history of our work must be republished We must study to find out the best way in which to take up the review of our experiences from the beginning of our work . . .” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 17, p. 344-345).

In the 1980s what was “the best way” to recall the stories? It was the decade of the personal computer. The rapid development of the technology made “rehearsal” a new experience. Desktop publishing was born, and “republish” became a new possibility. CD-ROMs allowed entire libraries to be distributed on

“THE EXPERIENCE OF WILLIAM MILLER AND HIS ASSOCIATES, OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH BATES, AND OF OTHER PIONEERS IN THE ADVENT MESSAGE, SHOULD BE KEPT BEFORE OUR PEOPLE.”

one disk. The need and mandate were clear. “Many of those who have since come into the truth are ignorant of the way in which the Lord wrought. The experience of William Miller and his associates, of Captain Joseph Bates, and of other pioneers in the Advent message, should be kept before our people. Elder Loughborough’s book should receive attention . . .” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 17, p. 345).

The new ministry was named Adventist Pioneer Library (APL). The first step involved “data

conversion”—taking the old publications, many out of print, and having the words converted to electronic files. The work took off with a quarterly periodical, *Lest We Forget*, begun in 1991 highlighting the pioneers, a new edition of “Elder Loughborough’s book” *The Great Second Advent Movement* published in 1992, and a CD-ROM released in 1993 containing over 160 books, pamphlets, sermons, and articles, plus the first 12 volumes of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*. The latest collection of writings has been published in partnership with the Ellen G. White Estate, on the CD-ROM *Ellen G. White Writings Comprehensive Research Edition*, and on the web at www.EGWWritings.org.

Now 25 years later, APL has the privilege to merge with Light Bearers. The desire is to enhance both ministries. Because the rehearsing, the republishing, and the reviewing are not finished.

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JEFFREY ROSARIO
speaker

PAUL AND NERO

A FEW WEEKS ago my wife and I returned from an adventurous trip to Turkey. We were on a journey to experience the events and places of the New Testament. All we needed was our *Lonely Planet* book and our GPS.

Among the many stops on our itinerary was the ancient port city of Patara. Acts 21 tells us that Paul and Luke stopped there to change ships on their third missionary journey. Among the city's ruins, the 5,000 seat amphitheater teases the imagination. There's also a complex of Roman baths, a cistern, a colonnaded market, a parliament building, and the scant remains of the Temple of Apollo.

Yet, with much of the city still

buried in the shifting sands, Patara remains mostly undiscovered. The thing that caught my attention was the remains of an ancient lighthouse just recently unearthed.

"THESE TWO MEN, THOUGH LIVING AT THE SAME TIME WERE, IN LIFE AND CHARACTER, AN ETERNITY APART."

Archaeologists have concluded that this lighthouse was built between A.D. 64 and 65. While roaming through the scattered stones, I saw an inscription bearing the name of the man who commissioned it—Emperor Nero.

That inscription immediately brought to my mind those two

men: the emperor Nero and the apostle Paul.

I was struck by the significance of the legacy that they left behind. These two men, though living at the same time were, in life and character, an eternity apart.

The dates from the inscription rang familiar to me because at that

GOD STOOD WITH ME

"At my first defense no one stood with me . . . But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

2 Timothy 4:16-17

TRUTH WILL NOT FAIL

"His words are as a shout of victory above the roar of battle. He declares the cause to which he has devoted his life, to be the only cause that can never fail. Though he may perish, the gospel will not perish. God lives, and His truth will triumph."

Ellen White
Acts of the Apostles, p. 495

ATMOSPHERE OF HEAVEN

"Paul carried with him the atmosphere of heaven. All who associated with him felt the influence of his union with Christ. The fact that his own life exemplified the truth he proclaimed, gave convincing power to his preaching. Here lies the power of truth. The unstudied, unconscious influence of a holy life is the most convincing sermon that can be given in favor of Christianity. Argument, even when unanswerable, may provoke only opposition; but a godly example has a power that it is impossible wholly to resist."

Ellen White
Acts of the Apostles, p. 510

same time, hundreds of miles away in Rome, Paul sat in a dungeon awaiting execution under Nero.

Nero had reached “the height of earthly power, authority, and wealth.”¹ His name “made the world tremble” and “his frown was more

“ONLY A FEW SOLDIERS WERE ALLOWED TO WITNESS PAUL’S MARTYRDOM (FOR FEAR OF HIS INFLUENCE). AND EVEN THOSE HARDENED WARRIORS WERE AMAZED AT THE AURA THAT SURROUNDED HIM.”

to be dreaded than a pestilence.”² He was the personification of selfishness. The shocking details of his life are too many to mention here. The most significant of Nero’s experiences was when he came in contact with Paul. The scenes of Paul’s last trial before Nero reveal the true nature of these two men.

Standing before the emperor was the aged apostle. There was a mysterious sense of peace on his face. He was not intimidated by all the pomp of Rome. Even the glory of the mightiest empire on earth was nothing compared to “the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6).

Paul’s life was an example of self-sacrificing service on behalf of others. Keeping his “conscience clear before God and man” (Acts 24:16, NIV) was the secret to his boldness. It was love for the kingdom of Jesus—not wealth or earthly power—that enabled him to bear witness to the gospel during the last trial of his life. Paul had the opportunity to preach before Nero and his court. Ellen White writes:

“The people and the judges looked at him in surprise. They had been present at many trials and had looked upon many a criminal, but never had they seen a man wear a look of such holy calmness as did the prisoner before them. The keen eyes of the judges,

accustomed to read the countenances of prisoners, searched Paul’s face in vain for

some evidence of guilt. When he was permitted to speak in his own behalf, all listened with eager interest” (Acts of the Apostles, p. 494).

The words that he spoke on that day “were destined to shake nations and to live through all time” in the hearts of men and women.³ But eventually, after Nero had spent more time with his tortured conscience and wrestling with Paul’s compelling testimony, Paul would be led to the execution chamber for his beheading.

Only a few soldiers were allowed to witness Paul’s martyrdom (for fear of his influence). And even those hardened warriors were amazed at the aura that surrounded him. “More than one accepted the Savior whom Paul preached, and ere long fearlessly sealed their faith with their blood.”⁴ That’s the power of a Spirit-filled life. Even those Roman soldiers were drawn both to him and his message and eventually followed his example.

The legacy of Nero, on the other hand, is pitiful.

Shortly after the scenes of Paul’s trial, Nero, at the age of 32, was

fleeing from his own people and terrified for his life. The consequences of a life of selfishness had caught up to him. Afraid of being captured, he attempted suicide but lacked the courage to go through with it. Finally, he asked his slave to stab him in the neck. And that was the end of Nero.

But Nero’s greatest tragedy occurred after his death. He was so hated that the Romans pulled down all his statues and monuments as the succeeding emperor sought to remove his memory from Rome.

So there I was on the southern coast of Turkey, daydreaming in front of the few remaining traces of Nero’s name. He sought to preserve the memory of his life by chiseling his name on stones.

I walked away from those ruins thinking of Paul. His memory lives on. His legacy is engraved, not on stones, but in the hearts of men and women throughout history who have been inspired by his life. May we all strive to live, day by day, lives of self-sacrificing service for others. May our love for the Kingdom of Jesus eclipse all the vanity of earthly glory.

And may our dedication touch the hearts of those around us so that “those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:15).

¹ Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 493.

² *Ibid.*

³ Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 495.

⁴ Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 510.

COME SEE US!

OCTOBER 4-6

Eden Valley Institute
Loveland, CO
970.667.0809 / www.eden-valley.org
James Rafferty

OCTOBER 17-26

Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI
www.andrews.edu
David Asscherick

OCTOBER 19

Fall Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church
Fall Creek, OR
541.937.3526
James Rafferty

OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3

AMEN Conference
Airport Marriott, Orlando, FL
barnhurst@amensda.org
James Rafferty

NOVEMBER 16

Fall Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church
Fall Creek, OR
541.937.3526
James Rafferty

NOVEMBER 20-23

Central Spanish Adventist Church
Los Angeles, CA
213.381.1905 / www.centalspanish.org
David Asscherick



... ADVENTIST PIONEER LIBRARY *(continued from page 1)*

Check out the websites—
www.APLib.org,
www.AdventAudio.org,
www.EllenWhiteAudio.org. Keep
in touch with our new plans.

Partner with us in facing the future
firmly rooted in the past God has
given us. Our stories reveal His
hand at work.

NOW HIRING

RESOURCE CENTER MANAGER

We are looking for a full-time Resource Center Manager. The ideal candidate will possess exceptional customer service skills, have a background in retail management, be computer literate and adept at learning new software applications. Duties include maintaining a web store, generating advertising and becoming familiar with all the audio, video and print materials of Light Bearers. This position requires excellent organizational and interpersonal skills.

FULL-TIME RECEPTIONIST

Light Bearers is now accepting applications for a full-time receptionist. We are looking for an energetic, positive, self-motivated person with excellent interpersonal and service skills, someone who will communicate effectively by providing a professional and helpful attitude when answering the phone, greeting visitors, assisting fellow employees, and who is also proficient in computer applications. Applicants need to be able to manage multiple tasks, be highly organized and a team player.

INTERESTED?

Send your resumé to steph@lightbearers.org.