

# MISSION UPDATE (DEC 2013)

THE NEWSLETTER OF LIGHT BEARERS



**TY GIBSON**  
co-director

## STOP TINKERING

**IS THERE SOMEBODY** in your family or in your church who is doing something you think they ought not to be doing?

Of course there is!

Are there people around you with defects of character that you can't help but notice?

Yep!

Do you find it natural to try and correct the defects you see in others?

If not, you need read no further.

Okay, I see you're still reading, so the following quotation is for you:

"Men make the work of advancing the truth tenfold harder than it really is by seeking to take God's work out of His hands into their own finite hands. They think that they must be constantly inventing something to make men do things which they suppose these persons ought to do. The time thus spent is all the while making the work more complicated, for the great chief Worker is left out

of the question in the care of His own heritage. Men undertake the job of tinkering up the defective characters of others, and only succeed in making the defects much worse. They would better leave God to do His own work, for He does not regard them as capable of reshaping character" (Ellen White, *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 191).

Ouch!

**MEN MAKE THE WORK OF ADVANCING THE TRUTH TENFOLD HARDER THAN IT REALLY IS BY SEEKING TO TAKE GOD'S WORK OUT OF HIS HANDS INTO THEIR OWN FINITE HANDS.**

If that smarts your conscience like it does mine, you won't want to read it again. But you really should, and this time slower.

Words couldn't be truer.

Stop and think about it: have your efforts to fix people by "tinkering up" their defective characters—by pointing out their defects, by subtly or not so subtly imposing guilt, by applying manipulative pressures—ever, even once, brought about positive changes in your "target"? I'd

venture a guess that you can't cite a single success story. Nor can I.

Why?

Because the method itself is inherently flawed. People do not turn from their defects and sins when pressured to do so. In fact, the natural tendency of the human heart is to resist or rebel when "tinkering" pressures are applied. God has a different method: He reveals His

forgiving grace, and it transforms a person from the inside out.

So leave God to His work. Stop tinkering

with people's characters. Allow the Savior to do the saving. He's good at it, and He's the only one who knows how to approach each individual in just the right way with the best possible effect.

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**JAMES RAFFERTY**  
co-director

# LUANDA PARA CHRISTO

## THE NUMBERS:

4 containers; 8 million pieces of literature; 23,127+ baptisms.

In 2012 Light Bearers Ministry (LBM) received a request from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID). They were planning a city-wide evangelistic outreach in Luanda, Angola beginning in March 2013. Could we print and ship three containers of literature to assist this outreach? The literature would empower laypeople and preachers to reach thousands of people throughout this capital city. The theme was Luanda for Christ/ Hope for Angola—the result was 23,127 baptisms between March

and September of 2013. Those amazing and unexpected numbers left everyone acknowledging God’s mighty Spirit was at work in Angola.

## THE PROCESS:

Print; ship; door-to-door work; public meetings; decisions.

The process began in 2004 when church leaders began planning and visiting Luanda. It culminated in March 2013 when three containers from LBM landed in Luanda, home to 5 million people and the capital of Angola. Church members began door-to-door work and outreach in every part of the city in preparation for hundreds of individual evangelistic campaigns.

These efforts united evangelists, pastors, lay preachers and church leaders. This outreach continued for six months, culminating in a city-wide series of dozens of meetings, one of which I finished up in September. The whole event was well organized and each of the final meetings covered the same topic night by night, finishing up with the Signs of the Times, State of the Dead, and the Unpardonable Sin, using PowerPoint slides translated into the Portuguese language.

## ATTENDANCE:

At my site there were 300-400 people in attendance. Most other sites had about the same number,

## UPWARD AND ONWARD!

“When we view the rise and progress of the publishing work from the beginning to the present time, we thank God and take courage. Yet our responsibility toward the unwarned multitudes urges us on to still greater and more systematic efforts. . . .”

Ellen White  
*Review and Herald,*  
November 5, 1914

## WHAT IS MONEY WORTH?

“I have been shown that our publications should be printed in different languages and sent to every civilized country, at any cost. What is the value of money at this time, in comparison with the value of souls?”

Ellen White  
*Life Sketches,* p. 214

## PUBLISHING PREPARATION

“Some made great sacrifices for the truth’s sake and to help those of the brethren who were in darkness. The way is thus preparing to do a great work in the distribution of tracts and papers in other languages.”

Ellen White  
*The Publishing Ministry,* p. 397

though some were larger. The planning was basic: six months of outreach at various locations all over the city with extensive door-to-door Bible work, and repeated preaching events. It involved both the leadership and

## THE PROCESS BEGAN IN 2004 WHEN CHURCH LEADERS BEGAN PLANNING AND VISITING LUANDA

the laypeople from Angola and South Africa, as well as other countries of the world. On the last Sabbath we met in two separate football stadiums numbering over 65,000 people. Here the church members praised and worshipped God, received messages from our General Conference leadership and thanked Light Bearers Ministry for the literature support that has made such a tremendous impact in the city of Luanda. We pass their thanks on to you, acknowledging that we could do nothing without your prayers and cheerful giving.

## CLEARING FOR BAPTISM:

To be prepared for baptism, each candidate was to be a graduate of the Voice of Prophecy Bible study series and have attended at least one campaign; be in a baptismal class and have attended one campaign; or attended two campaigns.

About two months after the containers arrived we received a report of about 5,000 baptisms. Before I left for Angola in September there had already been 19,000 baptisms. There were about 4,000 more in the final weeks of September.

## RETENTION:

Many lives have been transformed and there was eagerness among these new witnesses for Christ to share with their family and friends the gospel that has made a difference for them. The people I met were on fire for Jesus Christ. The SID is one the most active divisions

in Africa, and likely in the world. We have confidence in the way they approach evangelism and follow-up, evidenced in their request for another container for Angola to provide Bible studies for new converts to share with family and friends. This was shipped in October—praise God!

The last meeting I spoke at was with the SID vice-president and the health ministries leader. We spent over three hours instructing newly baptized members in how to have a devotional life, church history (I did a meeting explaining Revelation 12 from beginning to end/Remnant church), church ministries departments and how to be an active part of the church.

They also instructed the new members to form small groups of 4-6, but no more than 12, to meet in houses for fellowship, Bible study and outreach. It was excellent.

Adventist Services and Industries (ASI) donated 4,000 Discovery DVDs with players to be distributed among these groups. These DVD series contain the full Seventh-day Adventist [SDA] message and a newly developed health series all translated into Portuguese.

There were also thousands of Bibles purchased by SID from

Remnant Publications. This allowed SID to give a Bible to every newly baptized member.

## CHURCH CAPACITY:

One problem Angola now faces is that there are not enough churches to accommodate the new members. The day I arrived, the president of one of the conferences was leaving to meet with Maranatha in Loma Linda, California to request a massive One-Day Church program for Luanda. Of course, lack of space can also be seen as a good problem and one that we could certainly use more of here in North America.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED:

The country of Angola has a booming economy with rich supplies of oil on the coast and diamonds in the interior. There is still a stark contrast between the rich and poor, but the infrastructure is growing fast. The cost of living is one of the highest in the world. SID was intentional to introduce the SDA message as early as possible (civil war ended in 2001 and the leaders began working in 2004). This has been the fruit of much labor and planning, but there is still much to do. Your prayers and support are needed for Angola as follow-up and outreach continues to the rest of the country. Thanks so much for being part of the preaching, teaching, publishing, resourcing ministry of LBM. Amen.

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## COME SEE US!

### DECEMBER 5-8

ASI Poland  
Lodz, Poland  
poe@gmesh.net  
Ty Gibson

### DECEMBER 7

Fall Creek SDA Church  
Fall Creek, OR  
541.937.3526  
James Rafferty

### DECEMBER 14

Glide SDA Church  
Glide, OR  
541.496.3956  
James Rafferty

### JANUARY 1-5

GYC 2013  
Orlando, FL  
gycweb.org  
Jeffrey Rosario, David Asscherick

### JANUARY 4

Los Alamitos SDA Company  
Cypress, CA  
714.236.4827  
James Rafferty

### FEBRUARY 1-8

Simi Valley SDA Church  
Simi Valley, CA  
805.526.0141  
James Rafferty



## WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS!

*We need your prayers! We have a container going to Barry Moiser at Front Line Missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Under normal circumstances we would send it to Mombasa, Kenya and it would then go by truck across Tanzania. We coordinated the transport but then another civil war broke out in the heart of Congo, making that route impossible. We've been desperately trying to find another way. Please join us in praying that God will enable us to deliver this much-needed literature to Congo.*

*Stephanie Van Koten-Hinger  
Projects Coordinator*

## 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](mailto:steph@lightbearers.org).