



**JAMES RAFFERTY**  
co-director

## DESPERATE PRAYER

**WE ARE LIVING** in desperate times—desperate, meaning a feeling showing, or involving a hopeless sense that a situation is so bad as to be impossible to deal with, like national debt, life destroying typhoons, earthquakes, tsunamis, war, terrorism, crime, economic and civil upheaval, and . . . unreliable political promises of peace and safety.

Earth's history is filled with desperate times and desperate people confronted with hopelessness. Judas and Peter were both desperate at times. As were David (at Ziklag) and Saul (at Endor). And Elijah, who, desperate for rain prayed, and desperate for his life at Jezreel, ran. The difference in each desperate crisis mentioned here was prayer . . . desperate prayer.

Jesus spoke to this need for desperate prayer in Luke 18:

“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart” “give up,” “despair”(TCNT, NKJV, NIV).

These words encourage us—when

you are very sad or upset having little or no hope; when your situation is worse than bad; when you're done with all of your strength and left with no desire—pray!

The words of Christ are followed by two stories that illustrate desperate prayer and what it means to not lose heart. In these two stories Jesus identified two types of prayer, one for civil justice and the other for personal

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and individual rescue.

In the first story of an unjust judge, Jesus nails it! This world is filled with leaders in positions of responsibility who do not fear God and do not regard people, that is, they do not “reference” people (the Greek here indicates a meaning of having no shame or not being put to shame regarding what they do to people). The only thing that motivates the unjust judge is how things will affect him. Self-centered actions verses other-centered actions—the very

core of the great controversy between good and evil.

Jesus closes the first story with the assurance that prayer will finally prevail against injustice. In the end God will avenge all wrongs and He will do so speedily. So do not lose heart, God will come through. Our prayers for justice will be answered.

The second story is different than the first in at least one major way. It is more individual, more specific. It assures us that there are desperate prayers that are heard and answered immediately.

Some prayers are answered now and this is one of them. Sometimes we need help now. Not social justice, not making the world right—immediate help with an eternal consequence. This request does not require a process of time. Eternal life for one despairing person gets God's immediate response.

Desperate times call for desperate prayers.

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DAVID ASSCHERICK  
co-director

# JUST LIKE ACTS

**A REALLY COOL** thing happened recently, and I can't wait to tell you about it. Here goes . . .

It started at the Light Bearers Convocation earlier this year. The theme was *Jesus Only*, and was a chapter-by-chapter study through Acts. In preparation for those sermons, I, along with Ty, James, and Jeffrey, read and studied through this book. The convocation went awesome, and everyone, ourselves included, were richly blessed through the study of Luke's second book. (Note: you can download all the *Jesus Only* messages at [lightbearers.org](http://lightbearers.org)!)

In my studies one of the things that struck me most was the tremendous sense of community

throughout the book. Luke paints a picture of genuine connection and love. His descriptions are simple and yet profoundly suggestive of a deep commitment in the early church to each other and to the larger community. For example, he writes:

*Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. . . . Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid*

*them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. (Acts 4:32-35).*

Can't you just feel it, that sense of love, selflessness, mission-mindedness, connection, and, community? It's unmistakable. It is something special and beautiful. Or perhaps I should say it was. Let me return to this point in just a moment.

Not long after convocation, the ARISE Cornerstone program started. One of the classes I teach at ARISE is, you guessed it, Acts. I was ready to go this year, since I

## THE LOVE OF GOD

"Divine love makes its most touching appeals to the heart when it calls upon us to manifest the same tender compassion that Christ manifested. That man only who has unselfish love for his brother has true love for God."

Ellen White  
*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 550

## THROUGH HIS CHURCH

"The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency."

Ellen White  
*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9

## TO THE PEOPLE

"The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to "the principalities and powers in heavenly places," the final and full display of the love of God. Ephesians 3:10."

Ellen White  
*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9

was already studied and fired up. As I prepped for the class, the same picture forced itself upon my mind: genuine community; real love and real connection.

Now, I have seen and felt glimmers of this kind of community in my 17 years as a believer, but nothing that fully matches Luke's inspiring description.

## TWO DAYS BEFORE, THE HOUSE BOTH FAMILIES WERE LIVING IN BURNED TO THE GROUND. EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS WAS LOST

Until last week.

I was in Los Angeles, California. And in a strange twist of irony, I was preaching at the Spanish Central Church in downtown LA, which just happens to be located in Jim Jones's old church. Yes, that Jim Jones—the one who in 1978 led 909 of his church members to commit suicide in Guyana. Jones was aiming for a kind of utopian heaven on earth, but produced, instead, something much closer to hell on earth.

So there I was preaching a week-long revival series in this beautiful, old, and historically-significant building, when I received terrible news. It was Thursday. The pastor, a friendly and godly man named Enoc Calderon, introduced me to two young families who were members of his church, and asked if I would join them

in special prayer. I happily agreed. Then Pastor Calderon told me their story.

Two days before, the house both families were living in burned to the ground. Everything except the clothes on their backs was lost. Everything. No one was hurt or killed, all seven of them were unharmed! One of the families has two young children; the other, one.

I stood there in silence, looking at the downcast faces of the now-homeless parents. My prayer felt so feeble, so ineffectual. But I prayed nonetheless; I prayed

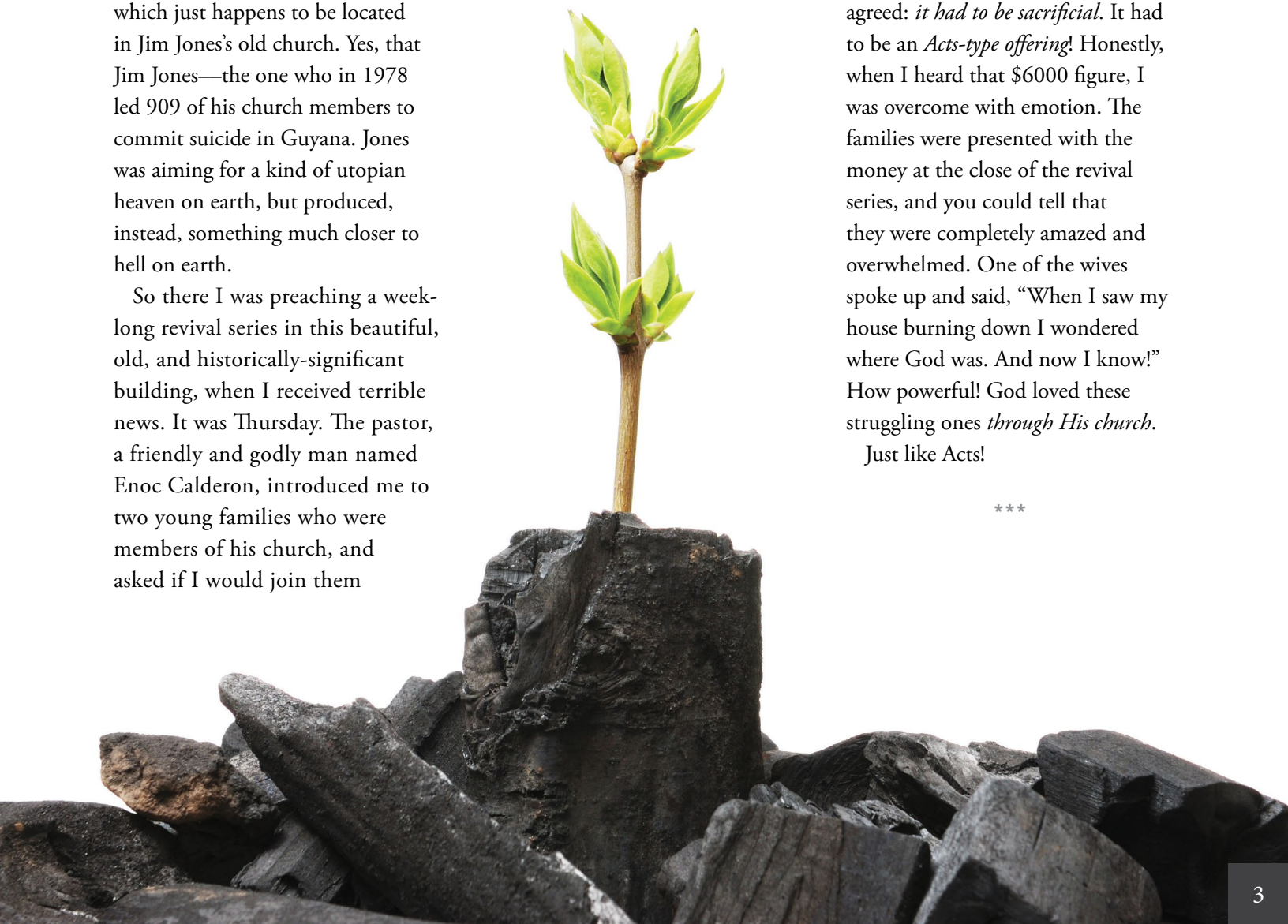
and trusted, and tried to believe. After the prayer I questioned the families about their circumstances. The answers were not comforting. Truly, everything was lost. Red Cross was putting them up in a hotel for a week. Beyond that, all was darkness and confusion, and you could see it on their faces.

Suddenly, somehow, I spoke in faith: "everything will be alright; I can just feel it! We must trust our God and His community." They nodded in silent resignation.

On Sabbath, I made an impassioned appeal to the church on behalf of the families. And Jesus did something awesome! More than \$6000 came in! Violeta and I prayed about our own contribution and we agreed: *it had to be sacrificial*. It had to be an *Acts-type offering!* Honestly, when I heard that \$6000 figure, I was overcome with emotion. The families were presented with the money at the close of the revival series, and you could tell that they were completely amazed and overwhelmed. One of the wives spoke up and said, "When I saw my house burning down I wondered where God was. And now I know!" How powerful! God loved these struggling ones *through His church*.

Just like Acts!

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# COME SEE US!

## 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

## FEBRUARY 8

Los Alamitos SDA Company  
Cypress, CA  
714.236.4827  
Risë Rafferty

## FEBRUARY 12-15

3ABN Anchors of Truth  
618.627.4651 / [www.3abn.org](http://www.3abn.org)  
James Rafferty

## FEBRUARY 15

Fall Creek SDA Church  
Fall Creek, OR  
541.937.3526  
Risë Rafferty

## REGARDING: DAVID ASSCHERICK'S RELOCATION TO AUSTRALIA

In 2013, Light Bearers launched ARISE Australia in partnership with the North New South Wales Conference (NNSW) and the Kingscliff Seventh-day Adventist Church. The first program was a glowing success and 24 enthusiastic students graduated on May 10th. This superb start opened the door for a deepening of the partnership between Light Bearers, the NNSW Conference, and the Kingscliff Church.

To strategically facilitate this partnership, David has accepted the call to be the senior pastor of the Kingscliff Church. He will occupy this position while continuing in his current role with Light Bearers as a speaker, writer, and instructor for our ARISE programs. David will continue to teach the same classes he has taught for Light Bearers at our ARISE programs in the US, speak at our annual convocation, and continue with our new Table Talk television series, among other projects. In other words, while David is relocating to Australia to facilitate this opportunity, his role with Light Bearers will not change.

We are very excited about the ministry possibilities this new situation will open. It's an expansion of the dream God has given us in training, teaching, and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ. We solicit your prayers as we continue to go forward spreading the Good News about Jesus!

In Christ,  
Ty, James and David

— now —

# HIRING

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LIGHT BEARERS