



JEFFREY ROSARIO
speaker

HEAVENLY MINDED OR EARTHLY GOOD?

IT'S BEEN SAID that Christians are “so heavenly minded that they’re no earthly good.” That’s a tragic indictment.

It infers that
with all the

injustices and pressing needs of *this* world, what good is it to be fixated on a future, distant world.

But, ironically, the true problem is precisely the opposite. The issue is not that Christians think too much about heaven, but rather that we don’t think hard enough about it. And this lack is the cause of much indifference in the church regarding the present world.

One example is the apostle Paul, who, in terms of making an impact on the world, is definitely on the long list of game changers. He summarizes his philosophy of life succinctly:

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (Colossians 3:2, ESV).

Some translations say “affections,” instead of “minds.” This sounds a whole lot like saying: “get fixated on heaven, not on earth!” So much for the accusation of being “*too* heavenly minded.” According to

Scripture, the more our minds and hearts are fixed on heaven, the more our lives will make a meaningful impact here on earth.

As C.S. Lewis pointed out in his classic, *Mere Christianity*:

A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or

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wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were

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JAMES RAFFERTY
co-director

WATER FOR LIFE INTERNATIONAL IN GUATEMALA

IN FEBRUARY OF 2012, I traveled to Guatemala to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in connection with a shipment of over 1.3 million pieces of literature. When I arrived, the container that had arrived about six weeks before was already half empty. Approximately eight weeks later, the rest of the literature had been dispersed over the entire country. The leadership in Guatemala was so positive that they requested another container. This was filled with over 2 million pieces of literature and shipped in October of 2013. It included 29 boxes of children’s materials prepared by Lew and Freida Tanner, a local retired couple in their 80s who have dedicated thousands of hours to this

important ministry for children. Here is the latest report we received from a partner ministry, Water for Life International, concerning this latest shipment:

PARTNERS IN GUATEMALA

Water for Life International (WFL), drills wells in remote villages of Northeast Guatemala that don’t have safe water. This is a winter project each year as volunteer drillers are available from North America. While drilling the well and setting a hand pump, WFL has the wonderful privilege of building a relationship with the villagers that

is never lost. This relationship gives WFL the opportunity to share the wonderful news of the gospel of grace with the destitute Mayan villagers who are benefitted by the safe water. Each year since the drilling began nine years ago, WFL does outreach near the well and has built or assisted with the establishing of 13 churches. We’ve seen nearly 3,000 baptisms and are told that the North Guatemalan SDA Conference is the fastest growing conference in Guatemala. The latest effort was in the summer of 2013 with Amazing Facts around the San Benito area. In 2011, San Benito had one of

THE BIBLE ONLY

“In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle—the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty.”

Ellen White
Great Controversy, pp. 204-205

PRAYER SHOOK THE WORLD

“Our chief want, our chief labor, is prayer; let the people know that they are now exposed to the edge of the sword and to the rage of Satan, and let them pray. . . . From the secret place of prayer came the power that shook the world in the Great Reformation.”

Ellen White
Great Controversy, pp. 209-210

ONLY TWO RELIGIONS

“There are but two religions in the world,’ said Olivetan, the Protestant. ‘The one class of religions are those which men have invented, in all of which man saves himself by ceremonies and good works; the other is that one religion which is revealed in the Bible, and which teaches man to look for salvation solely from the free grace of God.’”

Ellen White
Great Controversy, p. 220

Guatemala's worst massacres, now there are more than 200 precious souls in San Benito rejoicing in their new found hope.

Two years ago, Light Bearers partnered with WFL by sending 2/3 of a container filled with gospel literature. We can't thank Light Bearers enough, as there just aren't printed resources available to these people. They are so delighted to have something this valuable in their hands and often tears come to their eyes as they line up to receive their gifts. Our favorite time to give the gospel literature is when the pump first begins to pump the clear, safe water from the well. The villagers are sometimes not sure what to do at that point until we drink several handfuls of the delightful, life-giving beverage. Soon there is giggling, laughing, drinking and throwing the water at one another. This is when the Light Bearers literature is given to those who are able to read Spanish.

WFL has established more than one church where there was no SDA presence using the sequence of well, Bible worker, Light Bearers' literature. God is indeed blessing through this important printed message of hope!

Two stories: Bible workers have been sharing Light Bearers' literature at a very large government prison in Guatemala City. Now, the government has asked for a well and to please build an Adventist church in the prison compound. Water has to be hauled to the prison daily.

Nine years ago there were just two SDA churches in the Poptún area where WFL is based. The churches were quite stagnant and a lot of criticizing was going on among members. Now the vision of outreach has swept the area and there are eight established churches. Church members are looking for ways to share the gospel and handing out Light Bearers' literature in their businesses and to their neighbors.

A full container of Light Bearers' literature just arrived at the WFL shop. Bible workers, pastors, lay members, Pathfinder clubs and conference offices have been calling Berny (the local WFL representative), asking when they can get their shipment. Berny has been waiting for Spanish Bibles to arrive that will go with the shipments. All the materials are here now and Berny says that with the requests he has presently, the

container will be empty within 1 to 1½ months.

Two weeks ago we went to the Barillal church, new last year, where the first elder from a church one hour away by bicycle officiates. Several baptized members are there now and WFL recently put a lean-to on the back of the church to accommodate the many children. We were so pleased to be able to deliver a box of children's materials provided by Light Bearers. Every piece of literature, crayon, and crayon sharpener will be used to acquaint children with their loving Lord and Savior. Gracias! Gracias! Gracias! Gloria a Dios!

By Gary Bartholomew
WFL coordinator of volunteers,
on-site in Guatemala



COME SEE US!

APRIL 12

Claremont Seventh-day Adventist Church
Claremont, OK
918.341.7873
James Rafferty

APRIL 12

Veneta Seventh-day Adventist Church
Veneta, OR
condor4u@msn.com
Jeffrey Rosario

APRIL 18-20

Camp Wawona
Yosemite National Park, Wawona, CA
zpgiant@gmail.com
Jeffrey Rosario

MAY 2-4

Atlantic Union Spring conference
Newport, RI
<http://asiatlanticunion.org> / 603.588.6939
Ty Gibson

MAY 10

Atlanta Romanian SDA church
Lawrenceville, GA
707.527.4246
Ty Gibson

MAY 22-24

Minneapolis Gospel Summit
United Central Adventist Church
Brooklyn Park, MN
763.245.3193
James Rafferty



... HEAVENLY MINDED OR EARTHLY GOOD! (continued from page 1)

occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in;" aim at earth and you will get neither.¹

The reality of heaven is a reminder of what God's original purpose was for this present world. Keeping the future life central to our paradigm gives us a constant reminder of what life on earth

ought to be like—full of love, goodness, joy, and purpose. It inspires us to strive for that ideal in the here and now and guards us from complacency and indifference.

May we live our lives in the atmosphere of heavenly realities and strive to make a difference in this world. May we be so heavenly minded that we become of great earthly good!

¹ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p.134



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