



JAMES RAFFERTY
co-director

GOD GROANS

“LIKEWISE THE SPIRIT also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26).

The word “groaning” in this verse means “to voice a deep, inarticulate sound, as of pain, grief, or displeasure.” If there were no other text in all of Scripture, this text alone tells me that God has a heart. The very capability of voicing a deep sound of pain or grief requires feeling deeply about something or someone, and to feel deeply requires a heart.

The groaning of human beings overwhelmed by suffering, loss, and pain are recorded throughout the Old Testament, but in the New Testament there are only two references to the Greek word for “groaning.”

One belongs to the Holy Spirit in our scripture verse Romans 8:26. It describes how He groans out the heartache we fail to find words to convey. There is also an indirect reference in Matthew 27:46 (from

Psalms 22). This one also belongs to God in the person of Jesus Christ and the anguish He experienced for us all when He felt completely forsaken on the cross. In the Old Testament our groaning moves God to action. In the New Testament [NT], God Himself experiences the very groaning of the human race. The picture we have from the Bible is that God hears and experiences our deepest heartache. The one common thread is that God feels our despair, our bondage, and our oppression. Feelings that are often too deep for words reach His heart.

The second reference to groaning in the NT is in Acts 7 where Stephen recounts the history of God’s people and their captivity in Egypt, which had continued for over 400 years getting steadily worse and worse until the Egyptians finally passed a law to kill every baby Hebrew boy. In this context God says, “I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them.”

It is estimated that there are more human slaves on Planet Earth today

than there have ever been at any one time in our entire history. Literal slavery is a symptom of spiritual slavery to sin and selfishness. The callous greed of the natural human heart is the cause. The bondage we all experience to one degree or another forms the basis for atrocities

FEELINGS THAT ARE OFTEN TOO DEEP FOR WORDS REACH HIS HEART.

of the literal slave trade as we see it today. Our part in ending slavery begins with allowing our hearts to go out to God with groanings that cannot be uttered.

Prayer is powerful. The Holy Spirit is interceding for us with groanings that we can barely utter. When the pain, the hurt, the weight is too great for us to bear. When we can hardly think about our situation or our children, loved ones, friends, or acquaintances, God is there to put our unutterable words into petitions of prayer. God . . . has a heart!



DAVID ASSCHERICK
speaker

TWELVE

YEEHAW! HALLELUJAH! PRAISE

the Lord! Amen!

Yes, I know I'm geographically Down Under, but, wow, am I flying high right now! It's the Monday after the final weekend of the ARISE Australia program, and I'm sitting back to soak it all in, and, hopefully, to write down something about it.

Where to start? My mind is spinning with joyful thoughts. Here are some of the mountain tops.

First, and most obviously, my family and I moved to Kingscliff, Australia on March 4th, just over two months ago. We're here to

help run the ARISE Australia program and to pastor the Kingscliff Seventh-day Adventist Church. This represents a fairly significant change of scenery for my family and me, as I'll be traveling much less than I have been the last several years. I'll still be traveling some, especially to events like Light Bearers' Convocation and ARISE, but on the whole we'll be putting our roots down for the next several years while our little boys turn into, gasp, teenagers. (Seriously, you blink and

your kids are teenagers!)

Honestly, I'm so excited to be a full-time pastor again that I can barely contain myself. I'm all about depth, and not just breadth, for the next several years. Discipleship is my watchword right now, and I just can't stop thinking about it. The church is ready (and a little scared). I'm ready (and little scared). Let's go with God!

Second, we landed right in the middle of the second ever ARISE Australia program, and what a class it was! Energetic, enthusiastic, engaged, and even a little crazy—that pretty much sums up the 2014 class. I basically landed after 36 hours of travel and walked straight into the classroom to teach on the covenants. I then taught for three weeks straight, with barely time to

THE FATHER CAME TO EARTH

Had God the Father come to our world and dwelt among us, humbling Himself, veiling His glory, that humanity might look upon Him, the history that we have of the life of Christ would not have been changed. . . . In every act of Jesus, in every lesson of His instruction, we are to see and hear and recognize God. In sight, in hearing, in effect, it is the voice and movements of the Father.

Ellen White
That I May Know Him, p. 338

GOD STANDS JUSTIFIED

Through Christ's redeeming work the government of God stands justified. The Omnipotent One is made known as the God of love. Satan's charges are refuted, and his character unveiled. **Rebellion can never again arise. Sin can never again enter the universe.** Through eternal ages all are secure from apostasy. By love's self-sacrifice, the inhabitants of earth and heaven are bound to their Creator in bonds of indissoluble union.

Ellen White
God's Amazing Grace, p. 370

LOOK TO CALVARY

He loves us with a love that is inexpressible, and if at any time you begin to fear that you will be lost, that Jesus does not love you, look to Calvary.

Ellen White
Review & Herald
August 5, 1890



TWELVE PEOPLE MADE DECISIONS TO FOLLOW JESUS INTO THE WATERS OF BAPTISM . . .

catch my breath. Ty and Jeffrey had already been here, and the class was clearly loving it and soaking it all in. James arrived about a month later to put the final stamp on things, and send the students out in the name of Jesus.

As part of the ARISE program, we always conduct full evangelistic presentations of Christ-centered messages to the public. This year meetings were presented by our outreach coordinator, Ashley Smith. It was his fourth meeting ever, and

he did a fantastic job. Just a young man of 23 years, Ashley is without a doubt a committed and Spirit-filled preacher. And here's where things get very cool.

Twelve people made decisions to follow Jesus into the waters of baptism (one by profession of faith) as a result of these meetings and the ARISE program. (Actually, there were many more decisions, but twelve were ready by the ARISE Graduation, Sabbath, May 10.) And guess how many years ago

ARISE was founded? Twelve! From 2003 (back in Michigan) to 2014. You can use your fingers to count if you need to: that's twelve years. But there's more, guess how many classes had graduated before this one? Eleven. That makes the 2014 ARISE Australia class the twelfth ever ARISE class!

Twelve decisions for Jesus on the graduation day of the twelfth class from ARISE's twelfth year!

COME SEE US!

JUNE 6

3ABN Spring Camp Meeting: *The Second Coming*
West Frankfort, IL
<http://3abn.org>
Ty Gibson & James Rafferty

JUNE 7

Iowa-Missouri Conference Camp Meeting
Centralia, MO
515.223.1197 / www.imsda.org
James Rafferty

JUNE 7

Brookings Seventh-day Adventist Church
Brookings, OR
tom.misti@gmail.com
Jeffrey Rosario

JUNE 14

Springfield Seventh-day Adventist Church
Springfield, OR
l.binus@juno.com
Jeffrey Rosario

JULY 1-5

Light Bearers Convocation
Jasper, OR
www.lightbearers.org / 541.988.3333
James Rafferty, Ty Gibson, David
Asscherick, Jeffrey Rosario & Risë Rafferty

JULY 23-25

Central California Conference Camp Meeting
Soquel, CA
ccc.adventist.org/campmeeting
James Rafferty & Jeffrey Rosario


LIGHT BEARERS

FAITH *to* FAITH

- » powerful preaching
- » in-depth bible study
- » fun and engaging children's meetings
- » beautiful music
- » a spiritual feast for the whole family

JULY 1-5, 2014

register by phone: 1.877.585.1111

or online: www.lightbearers.org/2014-convocation

SPREAD THE WORD!

We are currently accepting Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy books to add to literature containers for third world countries. If you would like to help spread the gospel in the mission field, send your books to:

Light Bearers
37457 Jasper Lowell Rd.
Jasper, OR 97438

Please note: we only accept Bibles and Spirit of Prophecy books.