



DAVID ASSCHERICK  
speaker

## LEAVING THE BEST BEHIND

**RECENTLY WE HAD** our car broken into. Between the damage to the car and the stolen goods, it set us back several thousand dollars. Not the nicest “Welcome to Australia” moment one could imagine. I can still recall the almost nauseating feeling in my gut when I walked out that morning to get in the car and saw the smashed window. I instantly and instinctively felt a little afraid and glanced furtively around me, half expecting to see the perpetrator(s) right near me. I felt violated and unsafe; and it had all happened in a flash.

Apart from the smashed window and disheveled car, the scene was perfectly idyllic. The sky was blue, the waves were lapping, and the beach was beautiful and beckoning. I even remember the birds (Magpies, to be precise) calling and singing. It was paradise! And yet, right here in the middle of my own personal paradise was this incongruous and violating scene before me. It was strangely unsettling. The world at that moment seemed so perfect,

peaceful, and serene, and yet, here was unavoidable evidence, right before my eyes, to the contrary.

I opened the door and glass pieces fell to the road. The inside of the car was a wreck. Stuff was strewn everywhere, the glove compartment was ripped off and barely hanging by

### APART FROM THE SMASHED WINDOW AND DISHEVELED CAR, THE SCENE WAS PERFECTLY IDYLIC.

the hinges. And there, in the midst of the chaos, covered in shards of glass, was my personal leather-bound copy of Ellen White’s *Steps to Christ*.

It is my most favorite book of hers.

The thief had left the most valuable thing in the car! He’d left the best behind.

Oh, how I wish in his rush he would’ve grabbed it unintentionally. Maybe he would’ve thrown it into a bag with our binoculars and speakers. He would’ve gotten home to inspect his newly-acquired wares, and seen those words: *Steps to Christ*. He would’ve had a choice to make.

Who knows? Perhaps he saw it there the night before, while smashing and grabbing, and made his choice already. It was certainly sitting out in full view. It would’ve been tough to miss.

And Jesus is like that: *tough to miss*. There He sits, in the middle of our messy, broken, and violated lives, just waiting to be noticed. Just waiting to receive our attention.

I’m not a thief, and likely you aren’t either, but I’ve made the thief’s mistake: I’ve too often grabbed the goods of life and left Jesus just sitting there. I’ve chosen the passing and ignored the permanent; I’ve grabbed the temporal and neglected the eternal.

I closed the door, and went for a walk on the beach. I needed to speak to my Father about the condition of my own heart, before I spoke to the police about the condition of my car.

It was a great and beautiful day, and I went on my way rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 5:16).

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**TY GIBSON**  
co-director

# WORLDS APART (NOT ANYMORE)

**SUTHERLIN, OREGON AND** Papua New Guinea are worlds apart. Separated by 6,518 miles and the vast Pacific Ocean. Sutherlin is in the Northern Hemisphere and Papua New Guinea is in the Southern. But the two places and their people are separated by more than just geographic distance. Culturally, the inhabitants of each place, at least on the surface, are completely different. And yet, in a very real and meaningful way they are now connected for eternity.

The members of the Sutherlin Seventh-day Adventist Church, motivated by missionary zeal, decided that they wanted to do something to impact the world for Christ beyond their own little American town. Knowing that we here at Light Bearers have a heart for the mission field, and knowing that we target developing countries around

the world with cargo containers full of gospel literature, they contacted us with a simple but amazing question:

Can we as a church sponsor a container of literature to some place in the mission field?

While we've never had a local church adopt one of our projects, we were eager to accommodate their request. It immediately occurred to us that everything about the idea was brilliant.

It is an exciting opportunity for a church family to give of themselves to the wider world in the form of a tangible gift that will radically impact people's lives.

The church family becomes connected in a powerful way to another part of the world that has such great needs they cannot meet on their own behalf due to poverty.

The people on the receiving end are brought to the realization that there are fellow believers in faraway places that love them and share their faith.

The church family becomes motivated by the process of pulling their resources together for the mission field, thus revitalizing the members and getting them more enthusiastically engaged with their church.

Consider a few interesting facts about Papua New Guinea:

- » About 1000 diverse cultural groups exist in Papua New Guinea.

## GOD IS PERSISTENT

"He will not falter or be discouraged till He establishes justice on earth. In His teaching the islands will put their hope."

Isaiah 42:4, NIV

## GOD IS NEAR

"My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm."

Isaiah 51:5, NIV

## GOD IS EVERYWHERE

"The message will go in power to all parts of the world, to Oregon, to Europe, to Australia, to the islands of the sea, to all nations, tongues, and peoples. Preserve the dignity of the truth. It will grow to large proportions. Many countries are waiting for the advanced light the Lord has for them."

Ellen White  
*Christian Experience and Teachings,*  
p. 217

# ONE THIRD OF THE POPULATION LIVES ON A LITTLE MORE THAN \$1 A DAY.

- » With a population of 7 million, there are 836 indigenous languages spoken, many with fewer than 1,000 speakers.
- » Until the 1930s, seashells were used as the common currency, called “shell money.”
- » The island is situated along what is called the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” so named because of its many active volcanoes.
- » Only 18% of the Papuan people live in cities, while most of the inhabitants live in rural areas.
- » One third of the population lives on a little more than \$1 a day.
- » Until the mid-20th century, headhunting and cannibalism were practiced by the warring tribes because it was believed that beheading and eating one’s enemy was the means by which

their powers and spirits could be received.

- » Papua New Guinea has been categorized as one of the worst places in the world for violence against women.
- » Malaria is the leading cause of death.
- » 10% of the population identify themselves as Seventh-day Adventists.

After six months of fundraising, on July 3 the treasurer of the Sutherlin Church, full of enthusiasm and with a big smile, presented the second of two checks to Light Bearers, totaling \$65,000, designated “to provide a container of truth filled literature for Papua New Guinea.”

This is no small matter.

Due to the generosity of the Sutherlin church members, the inhabitants of the second largest island in the world will very soon

have in their hands the most priceless treasure human beings can possess: the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, the knowledge of God’s love for all human beings, and numerous biblical truths that expound upon that love.

The \$65,000 will allow us to print and ship 2,136,025 pieces of literature to the precious people of Papua New Guinea. This breaks down to less than five pennies per publication, and is arguably the most cost-effective means of placing the gospel within the reach of our world’s vast population centers.

Papua New Guinea is just one of many countries in the world desperately crying out for the precious cargo of gospel truth to be sent their way. If your church would like to consider sponsoring a Light Bearers literature project, contact us for details and a list of countries your church might adopt.

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# COME SEE US!

## AUGUST 1-3

Hope Camp Meeting  
British Columbia, Canada  
alonna@sksmith.ca  
Jeffrey Rosario

## AUGUST 2-9

South Caribbean Conference Camp Meeting  
Tobago  
868.662.7024 / info@trinidadadventist.org  
Ty Gibson

## AUGUST 8-9

Dubai, United Emirates  
janesusan.ochogo@gmail.com  
Jeffrey Rosario

## AUGUST 9

ASI National Convention  
DeVos Place Convention Center  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
www.asiministries.org  
James Rafferty

## SEPTEMBER 19-20

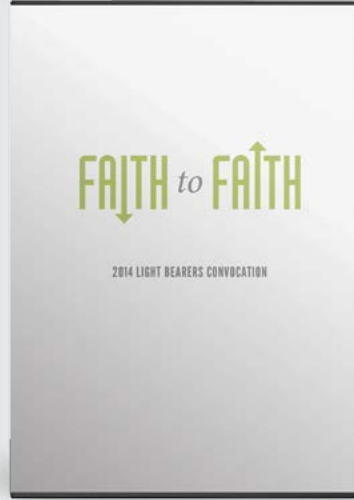
Village Church  
College Place, WA  
509.525.0882  
Ty Gibson

## OCTOBER 16-20

Kwa-Zulu Natal Free State Conference  
Camp Meeting, South Africa  
heino@abundant.co.zu  
www.knfcadventist.org.za  
James Rafferty



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