

MISSION UPDATE (JAN 2015)

THE NEWSLETTER OF LIGHT BEARERS



JAMES RAFFERTY
co-director

TELOS LOVE

FROM YEAR TO year certain Bible verses speak to me, becoming favorites. This year it's John 13:1: "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end."

It's the last phrase that grabs the heart—"He loved them unto the end!" The Greek word for "end" is *telos* meaning end or toll. *Telos* love is an enduring, toll-paying love.

In several places, like Revelation 22:13, the word "telos" is used to describe the actual character of Jesus: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (telos)." The Bible has several significant applications for the word "telos," all linked to Jesus' character of love—"telos love."

For example, the word *telos* describes endurance. "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end (telos),

the same shall be saved" (Matthew 24:12-13). In contrast to the human race, plagued with relationships that start well and fail to endure, Jesus' love endured to the end—"telos endurance." When the love of even His closest disciples froze in abandonment and denial—His love remained hot!

Paul uses *telos* when instructing us to "pay to all what is due them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue (telos) is due . . . owe no one anything, except . . . love" (Romans 13:7-8, NRSV). In our time, as in Paul's, paying revenue is not always easy (think IRS). Yet "love" constrains us to pay "toll-telos." Paul was motivated by Calvary where Jesus did not fail to love broken, wretched human beings, no matter what the toll.

In Luke 18:5, *telos* speaks to the justice of God: "Yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually [telos] coming" (Luke 18:5, NRSV). The widow's *telos* for justice is a

reflection of the just character of a loving God.

Telos also suggests a goal or aim. "For Christ is the end [telos] of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Romans 10:4). "Goal telos" informs us that the goal of law and righteousness is to be like Christ.

In Matthew 26:58 *telos* suggests finality: "But Peter followed Him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end [telos]." In this "end-telos," Peter sees in Jesus' eyes a look of love that swallowed up his words of betrayal. Perhaps this inspired John to write, "He loved them unto the end."

Telos love is the enduring, just, toll-bearing, goal of all human experience grounded in God's undying, debt paying love for us. Humanity has failed, but God's love has prevailed. Amen.



TY GIBSON
co-director

THE POWER OF THE PRINTED PAGE

Plain and simple: words of truth on paper are extremely powerful. Allow me to break this down for us. First, we need to understand that the words of God are a creative, life-giving force:

“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63).

“The creative energy that called the worlds into existence is in the word of God. This word imparts power; it begets life. Every command is a promise; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and recreates the soul in the image of God” (*Education*, p. 126).

Secondly, we need to understand that we are engaged, basically, in a war of words. Words are formulated into sentence structures to compose ideas. When read, those ideas enter the mind and alter the way a person thinks and feels and in turn how a person behaves. Words—whether true or false—change the way a person perceives God and life and oneself and others. The great war between good and evil occurs primarily in the realm of people’s thoughts and feelings, and their thoughts and feelings are then manifested in their actions. All the woes in the world—selfishness,

greed, lust, deception, hatred, war, abuse—all of it is traceable to wrong ways of thinking and feeling, and all wrong ways of thinking and feeling are traceable to false ideas communicated by means of words. Satan launched his war against God with words, and he endeavors to keep human beings in rebellion against God by words that falsify the character of God. The truths contained in God’s Word, by contrast, are the vehicle by which people may be led to see God as God really is, and as a result see themselves and others through God’s eyes.

This is why we, as the church of Christ, are called upon to blanket the world with words in the form of printed material. There are

SILENT PREACHERS

“There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by publications—the books, papers, and tracts, that are filled with the Bible truth that the people need.”

Ellen White
Words of Encouragement to Workers in the Home Missionary Field, pp. 3-4

TRUTH MULTIPLIED

“In the miracle of feeding the multitude with a few loaves and fishes, the food was increased as it passed from Christ to those who received it. Thus it will be in the distribution of our literature. God’s truth, as it is passed out, will multiply greatly.”

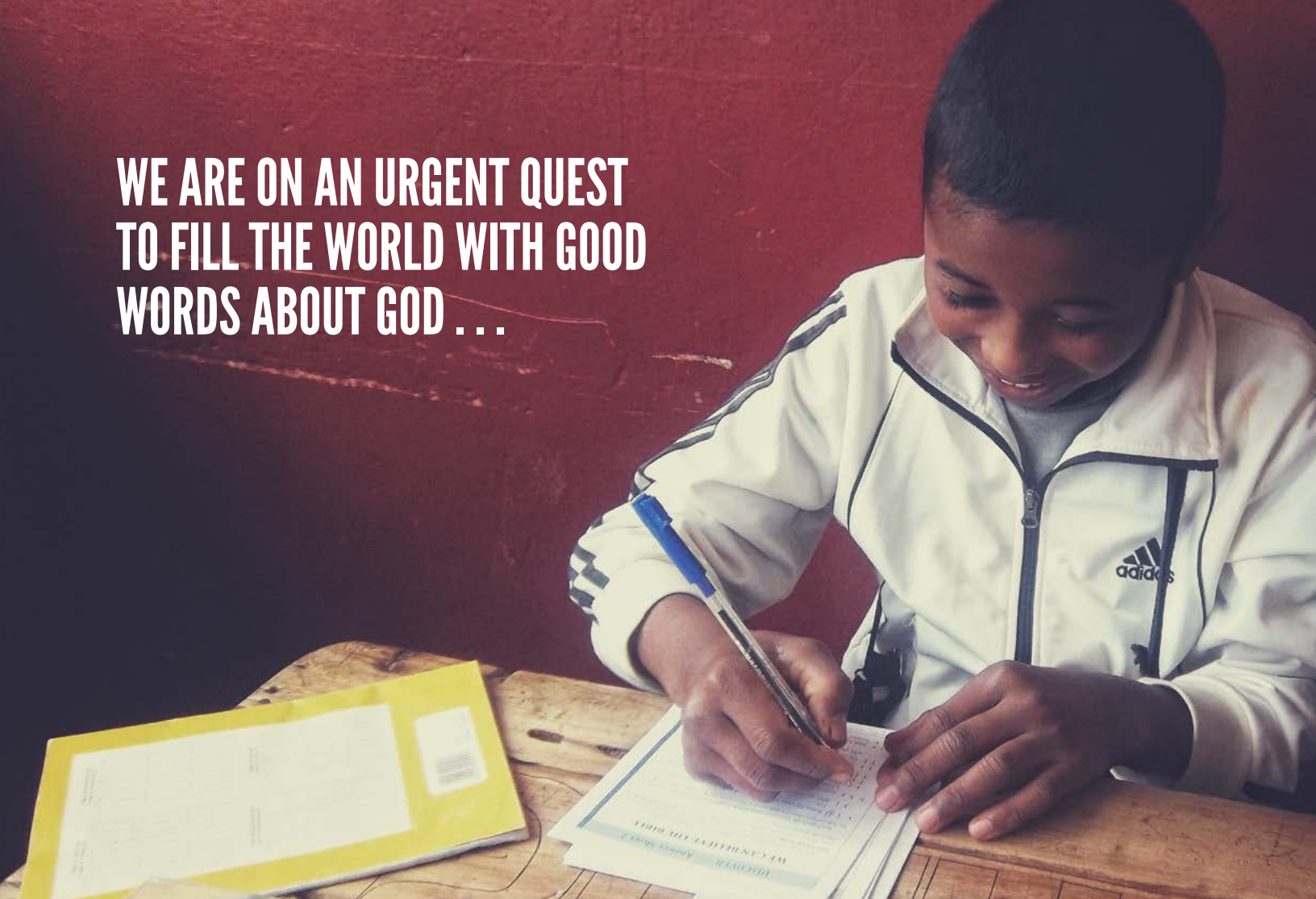
Ellen White
Words of Encouragement to Workers in the Home Missionary Field, p. 3

IMMEASURABLE GOOD

“We know not what may be the good results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth.”

Ellen White
Words of Encouragement to Workers in the Home Missionary Field, p. 3

WE ARE ON AN URGENT QUEST TO FILL THE WORLD WITH GOOD WORDS ABOUT GOD ...



many good and necessary labors the church must engage in. Food must be provided for the hungry, medical care must be given to the sick, interventions must be made for the abused. But at the most fundamental level, human beings must be released from bondage at the level of their thoughts and feelings. They desperately need, at the core of their being, to see and know and believe the love that God has for them.

As you know, Light Bearers takes this task very seriously. We are on an urgent quest to fill the world with good words about God in the

tangible form of printed material. Last year, we put into human hands over 24 million truth-filled publications. As 2015 unfolds, these are some of the countries we would like to flood with gospel literature:

- » Liberia
- » Kenya
- » Tanzania
- » South Africa
- » Guatemala
- » Lesotho
- » Swaziland
- » Namibia
- » Botswana
- » Zambia
- » Zimbabwe

This is a huge undertaking. We can't do it without your help. This is not merely the work of Light Bearers, but our work as the church at large, which includes all of us. Thank you for sharing this vision with us and for your passion to disseminate the truths of God's word to the nations. Your ongoing prayers and support are greatly needed and much appreciated by the countless men and women of the world who will hold the words of life in their hands because of your generosity.

COME SEE US!

JANUARY 14-17

Medford Seventh-day Adventist Church, OR
541.772.6021 / <http://medford22.adventistchurchconnect.org>
James Rafferty

FEBRUARY 4-8

EUD PulseMeet Youth Leadership Conference, Schwäbisch Gmünd, Germany
<http://2015.aypulse.org/>
Ty Gibson

FEBRUARY 7

Junction City Seventh-day Adventist Church, OR
541.998.5914
Fred Bischoff

MARCH 19-21

ASI SW Chapter Rally, Cleburne First Seventh-day Adventist Church, TX
www.asisw.org / 817.295.0476
Ty Gibson

MARCH 26-28

ASI Mid-America Convention, Kansas City, KS
www.asimidamerica.org
Ty Gibson

LIGHT BEARERS 2015 CONVOCATION

June 23-27 | Jasper, Oregon



Registration opens January 19 | Register online or by phone

LIGHTBEARERS.ORG or **1.877.585.1111**



\$50*

TABLE TALK SEASON TWO

In *The Righteousness by Faith Series*, Ty Gibson, James Rafferty, David Asscherick, and Jeffrey Rosario discuss life-revolutionizing truths.

**Shipping and handling not included.*


LIGHT BEARERS

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877.585.1111