



JEFFREY ROSARIO
speaker

WHERE'S YOUR SALT?

I WISH I could have been there that day when Jesus took a seat on top of a mountaintop, an audience looking on, and His disciples getting comfortable around Him. “He opened His mouth and taught” (Matthew 5:2). The spiritual truths He expounded on that day would later become known as the “Sermon of the Mount.” One of things I wish I could have seen was the looks on the disciples’ faces when Jesus began telling them about His dreams for His church, which at that point consisted of precisely *them*. They were a pretty non-impressive group; tiny pawns in a brutal world dominated by the mighty Roman Empire. What could Jesus realistically expect of *them*?

Jaws definitely dropped when He said: “You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). How could these seemingly insignificant disciples be considered “the salt of the earth”? Why salt? In their world, salt was not only used to flavor foods but more critically it was used as a preservative.

Without modern refrigeration, salt was rubbed into foods, such as meat, to preserve it from decay. So Jesus’ message was clear; the purpose for calling His disciples was so that they could go out into the world and be salt; engage in society; rub shoulders with the surrounding culture and the different communities and exert an influence that would hinder

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the process of decay in the world. Decay from what? Decay from the deterioration of God’s image in the human experience.

Jesus’ words present a relevant challenge for us today. His message reminds us that the purpose for which modern-day disciples are called is to penetrate into secular society, to rub into communities seeking to restore back to God that which is redeemable. Theologian

John Stott got right to the point when he said that Jesus never intended Christians to “remain snugly in elegant little ecclesiastical salt cellars.” In a sense, the Christian takes a healthy degree of responsibility for the condition of the world—our town, city, school and work. Society often reflects our lack of meaningful engagement with it. Whenever society does go bad, “we Christians tend to throw up our hands in pious horror, and reproach the non-Christian world; but should we not rather reproach ourselves? One can hardly blame unsalted meat for going bad. It cannot do anything else. The real question to ask is: where is the salt?”

If we are not challenged and inspired by Jesus’ simple words, it is because we don’t understand their significance. Jesus’ early disciples took those words to heart. And we too have the privilege of accepting that awesome invitation.

LIGHT BEARERS LITERATURE SUPPORTS TED WILSON'S MEETINGS

“HOPE FOR THE CITIES,” a mission to reach the cities of the world for Christ, launched by the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, targeted Harare, Zimbabwe during May 17-31, 2015. Pastor Ted Wilson, leader of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, was the main speaker. He conducted his own evangelistic preaching

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in Chitungwiza, a suburb of Harare. Accompanying him were sixty international speakers who participated in and conducted evangelistic efforts in different locations in and around the city. The total number of meetings, running concurrently with international and local speakers, was 914! “Harare will never be the same,” was the impression on many minds and lips. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the mission was completed with astounding

long-term results. Baptisms from all locations exceeded 2,000 in number, and many more were preparing to follow.

Many evangelistic tools were combined to make the event a success. The public evangelism was supported by health evangelism in the form of clinics, health expos, free dental and eye services, and additional programs. The health

expos alone served 34,000 people! Ted Wilson remarked, quoting from *The Ministry of Healing*,

by Ellen White, “Christ’s method alone in reaching the people will bring true success.” This describes perfectly the combined efforts for this campaign.

Just as important as using the health ministry as the “right arm” of the gospel, God also instructed us to use the printed page, full of “present truth,” during such public meetings. Not only does gospel literature prepare the soil and plant the first seeds for the meetings, but the people come to the meetings

with these special truths already in their hands. At home, the “silent messages,” under the working of God’s Spirit, will continue to bring these truths to minds and hearts.

In order to prepare the soil for these meetings, the Zimbabwe Union Conference received a container from Light Bearers filled with Bible lessons and many other printed materials.

Churches worked together since the month of March to enroll people in the Bible study course. Teams of three were formed and sent out by local church leaders to reach every home possible. Nine thousand Bible lessons were circulated in the three main districts of the Chitungwiza meetings. One pastor estimated more than 17,000 lessons were distributed in all locations. Graduations for those who enrolled and completed the course were held before and during the meetings. More than 5,000 graduates received their certificates. At least three quarters of those who were baptized had worked through the lessons.



An article published in the local Zimbabwe Herald newspaper reveals some of the far reaching effects of the Bible lessons: “Eunice

“I WANTED TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE MEANING OF LIFE AND ALSO, AS A WIDOW, THE STUDIES HAVE HELPED IN EASING MY STRESS.”

Mashakada, widow of the late musician, Cephas Mashakada, last week graduated with a certificate in Bible studies from the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Correspondence School.”

Mrs. Mashakada, who is a member of the Salvation Army, said she decided to undertake the three-month course as a way of enhancing her understanding of the Bible. “I wanted to understand the true meaning of life and also, as a widow, the studies have helped in easing my stress.”

“Studying the Bible will also further enhance my music and help in preaching the word of God through music,” she said.

Eternity alone will tell the influence of these Bible lessons upon hearts.

COME SEE US!

JULY 4

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JULY 18

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JULY 20-24

Central California Conference
Camp Meeting
Soquel, CA
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JULY 23-31

Northern California Conference,
Redwood Camp Meeting
Redcrest, CA
www.nccsda.com / 707.946.2452
Jeffrey Rosario

JULY 25

Oregon Conference Camp Meeting
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AUGUST 6

ASI National Convention
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