

MISSION UPDATE (AUG 2015)

THE NEWSLETTER OF LIGHT BEARERS



DAVID ASSCHERICK
speaker

NATE

HERE'S A MIRACLE story. Fifteen years ago, I was preaching an evangelistic series in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The series was a joint venture with Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI) and the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. ASI had provided our evangelistic team with dozens of teenage youth who would go out, knocking on doors, looking for Bible studies.

Two young ladies knocked on the door of an 18 year-old boy named Nate. Giggly and nervous, they invited him to the upcoming series. He rebuffed their invitation. Then, just as the conversation was ending, they mentioned that the speaker (me) was a skateboarder and former punk rocker. His curiosity piqued, he took the flyer.

Two days later, he drove himself to the meetings in a hearse. Yes, his car was a hearse. Nate was a punk rock kid, complete with wild hair and clothes. I knew the type well because I had been one just a few

years before. Nate listened with interest, which was surprising to some, given his appearance. I was not surprised at all.

By meeting's end, Nate had missed very few, if any, of the nearly 30 nights. Wonderfully, along with nearly 100 others, he made the decision to be baptized. From the beginning it was clear that Nate

WHEN THOSE GIGGLY YOUNG GIRLS KNOCKED ON NATE'S DOOR, HE WAS PLANNING TO KILL HIMSELF—THAT VERY DAY!

was a special kid, a deep thinker. It was also obvious that he was an evangelist, because soon after his own commitment to Christ, his younger brother and parents were also baptized. Nathan had reached out to them with the truth, not just words and ideas, but by a changed life and with the effusive love of Christ.

Nate continued to study and became a Bible worker, a position

he held for several years. Then he enrolled in the theology program at Andrews University with hopes of becoming a pastor. Nate set himself apart at university by being principled, possessing ministry experience, and having a willing spirit and a keen mind. His younger brother, Jacob, also entered Andrews to pursue his own dream of being a pastor!

Today, Nate is a pastor. So is Jacob. Both in their home state of Michigan. It's a beautiful story, made more beautiful still by this: when those giggly young girls knocked on Nate's door, he was planning to kill himself—that very day!

Let that sink in.

So, I just saw Nate yesterday and I told him, "I'm so glad you didn't kill yourself." We just laughed and embraced.

God is in the business of saving people, not just in some spiritual or ambiguous sense. He saves the actual lives of actual 18 year-olds



JEFFREY ROSARIO
speaker

ARISE AND SHINE

WHEN JESUS SAID, “Go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19), He was addressing His own disciples. In other words, He was telling them, “Go and make more of you.” They were to clone themselves; their mission was to spread the gospel germ to those around them. Regardless of their personal limitations, their success was contingent on the authenticity of their personal experience with God. The closer they could align their minds and hearts with the mind and heart of Jesus, the more evident it would be to the outside

world that, although inexperienced, “they had been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13).

In such a skeptical and hostile world in which they lived, it would have been significantly important for the early Christians to know what they believed about Jesus and how to effectively share that reality with others. That is essentially the same pressing need we face today. We, too, should ask ourselves the two important questions: What do I believe? How do I share it with others?

That is precisely why ARISE exists.

This coming fall, we at Light Bearers will be gearing up for yet another awesome round of the ARISE discipleship program. It will be the 16th class since ARISE first started. Throughout the years, some 900 people have been ministered to through the various ARISE seminars and classes. I know this sounds cliché, but really, each year the program continues to improve.

We call the curriculum, “The Story.” It is essentially a journey through the main narrative of Scripture. Beginning at Pre-Creation with the very nature and character

THROUGH YOU

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency.”

Ellen White
Acts of the Apostles, p. 9

GO THEREFORE

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

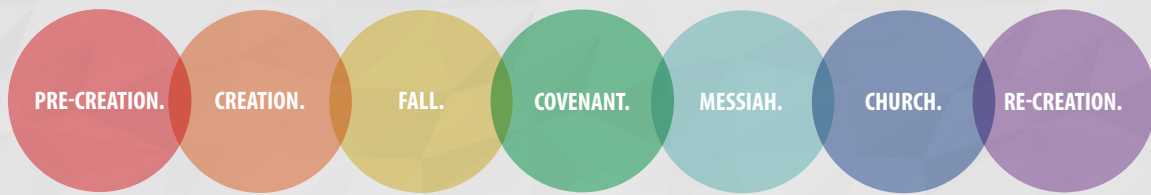
Matthew 28:18-20

EVEN TO NORTH AMERICA

“One out of five non-Christians in North America doesn’t know any Christians. . . . That’s 13,447,000 people—about the population of metropolitan Los Angeles or Istanbul—most of them in the United States.”

ChristianityToday.com
August 19, 2013

THE STORY



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of God, we journey on to the biblical themes of Creation, Fall, Covenant, Messiah, Church, and finally culminate in the celebration of Re-Creation. All the doctrines or theological teachings fall under one of those headings. This is because we believe that the doctrines of the church do not exist in a vacuum, but rather are accurately understood only in the context of the Story of Redemption.

The plot of the biblical narrative confronts us with a controversy taking place behind the scenes; a controversy between good and evil. But God's glorious triumph and restoration takes center stage. Every doctrine in our belief system, if accurately understood, sheds light on this overall theme and guides us into a dynamic and compelling relationship with God. With this perspective, we view history as essentially *His-story*. Whether embodied within Old Testament promises or New Testament manifestations, all of Scripture draws us to the person of Jesus Christ: the Word made "flesh" (John 1:14).

Throughout the 3-month ARISE program, students interact with this Story theme, but they also get instruction on practical ministry-related subjects. Practical subjects include: How to Study Your Bible, Conflict Resolution, Health and Happiness, Building Community, etc. All together, the program provides roughly 200 hours of classroom time. But aside from the classroom, an equally important component to the ARISE program is the opportunity to engage in community outreach. This includes, among other things, meeting people in their homes, one-on-one Bible studies, small group Bible studies, ministry to the homeless, and participation in a new church plant. About 150 hours of the program is devoted to the outreach component.

As they journey through this program, students can make a lasting impact as they build relationships with the community. It's been almost a whole year since the last class was here, and yet I see

people in church every weekend that are here simply because students from last year's class spent time in the community, built relationships, shared the gospel, and blessed

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others. A few weekends ago we had three baptisms in a cold river. These precious souls are a testimony of how the ARISE students invested their time and actually cared for others. I can't wait to see what this next class will bring and how they'll contribute to the building up of the kingdom of God!

If you have a desire to step out of your comfort zone, challenge yourself, and embark on a journey in which you will grow, not only spiritually, but as a person, then prayerfully consider the 13-week ARISE program from August 25–November 21. You can check out more information at www.lightbearers.org/arise/.

COME SEE US!

AUGUST 6

ASI National Convention
Spokane, WA
<http://asiministries.org>
Ty Gibson

AUGUST 12-15

Northern New England Conference
Camp Meeting
Freeport, ME
nnec.adventistchurchconnect.org
Ty Gibson

AUGUST 15

Cascade Adventist Church
Bend, OR
www.cascadesda.org / 541.749.9005
James Rafferty

AUGUST 23-26

North Pacific Union Conference
Ministerial Network Retreat
Gleneden Beach, Oregon
www.npuc.org/
Ty Gibson

AUGUST 29

Cascade Adventist Church
Bend, OR
www.cascadesda.org / 541.749.9005
James Rafferty

SEPTEMBER 5

Cascade Adventist Church
Bend, OR
www.cascadesda.org / 541.749.9005
James Rafferty



... **NATE** (continued from page 1)

and their actual families. He plucks them from the fire and sets them as diamonds in His crown. He gives them an abundant life. He makes them miracles.

And that's what *you* are: a miracle—a miracle of grace.

Now, believing child, go find more miracles-in-the-making. They are everywhere. . . .



SOMETHING BETTER

The book of Hebrews is a masterpiece of Christian apologetics. Each chapter uncovers a personal God who invites us into an intimate relationship with Him. Available on DVD (shown) and CD.

**Shipping and handling not included.*

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www.lightbearers.org

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