

# MISSION UPDATE

JULY 2016

## SAVED "AND" CALLED

BY JEFFREY ROSARIO

**AS THE APOSTLE PAUL** sat waiting as a prisoner in Rome, he was conscious of the fact that his future was likely one of martyrdom. Instead of sitting idly, he wrote several letters, the last of which was the second letter to Timothy. Timothy was a young man that Paul cared for deeply. "When Timothy was little more than a boy, Paul took him with him as his companion in labor" (*Manuscript*, p. 117a, 1901). As Paul thought about his final moments, he desired to pass on to Timothy a legacy that he could aspire to. The letter is theologically rich and reveals some inspiring insights about Paul's frame of mind as a follower of Jesus and a successful evangelist.

It seems as though Timothy lacked some boldness and confidence in his calling because Paul needed to reassure him that God "does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7, NIV). To press this matter further, Paul gives Timothy the ultimate foundation on which to base his sense of confidence in his calling:

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord . . . but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began" (2 Timothy 1:8-9).

This may sound strange, but one of my favorite words in this passage is the word "and." Note the language, "saved us and called us." Timothy could take heart in the fact that God had indeed called him, in spite of his timidity and his other weaknesses. How could he be so sure of his calling? Because Paul told him to view his calling with the same assurance that he viewed his salvation.

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This is gospel truth. Those who are *saved* are automatically *called*. Period. It is not possible to be a Christian and not embrace some sense of calling to serve on behalf of the Lord. Salvation and calling are two sides of the same coin; you can't have one without the other.

Are you timid about your calling? Do you lack confidence? Take heart and remember that your calling is not based on your illustrious credentials, or lack thereof. No, it is not "according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began" (2 Timothy 1:9). 🔥



## ARISE AUSTRALIA 2016

BY JAMES RAFFERTY

**ARISE AUSTRALIA TRAINING PROGRAM** has been part of Light Bearers now for four years and every class has been amazing! In case you missed it, David Asscherick and the “Violeta-Landon-Jabel” unit that make him a family have been living in Australia for a couple of years. He, along with Matt Parra, the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference, and a super group of administrators and church members are what make this school tick. And does it ever tick.

From the first 14-week training session, ARISE Australia felt like a program that had been running for years. In addition to the school itself, the NNSW Conference hires ARISE graduates each year and places them as Bible workers

all over the conference. This year they placed 16 of the 30 students. Hats off to Justin Lawman and Paul Geelan for the vision they inspire and the faith they practice as conference leaders!

This year’s class size was 30 and they were all “switched on,” an Aussie term for being connected. From the moment I stepped into the class it was “lights out” with hours of extra out-of-class time to cover topics like prophecy in more detail. A number of the students were new to the message and visitors sat in who weren’t Adventist at all (one plans to attend the USA class—more about that later).

It is not rare for students to be baptized for the first time after attending ARISE. Neither is it surprising to see students re-baptized based on their deeper, richer understanding of the gospel. This year the Spirit led former students and even one parent to baptism and re-commitment to Christ. That led to 18 baptisms during the program, with two more following so family could be present.



What made this class special (and every class has that something special) was not the new administrator, Kyle Morrison—though Kyle is definitely a special guy. It wasn't the food—great as it was, thanks to David, Lisa and Michaela. It wasn't even the teachers—though they were pretty good in their own right, or the music which Robby knocked out! This class had a special bond of love knit by the Spirit of God from heart to heart. It was a powerful, wonderful, intensely earnest experience for me personally.

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That Spirit was felt in a healing way by a young girl named Hanna who came to visit her friend Brittany all the way from Berrien Springs, Michigan. Hanna is a Lutheran, something she told me during the break after she sat in on her first class on the state of the dead, with questions, but her heart was open and the Bible was coming together for her. Even the classes on the book of Revelation finally made sense. That's what she told me a few days later when we sat down together to discuss which ARISE school she should attend—

Australia or USA. As we went over the pros and cons of each school I held nothing back. Two benefits of ARISE Australia are the weather and the one year conference sponsored Bible worker practicum. Hanna wasn't interested in doing Bible work. As far as the weather, "I'm from Michigan!" was her response to rainy Oregon. "Besides," she said with all sincerity, "I don't want to wait a year!" (And neither should you!)

God is working in a very providential way in Hanna's life and in the lives of each one of the students at ARISE Australia 2016. And God is prepared to do a similar work in our next ARISE USA beginning in August 2016, in Jasper, Oregon. If the Spirit is calling you there's still room. The time is now—make the call. This is your invitation and we'd love to have you! Amen. 🙏



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# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

## JULY 2, 16, 23

Cascade Adventist Church  
Bend, OR  
[www.cascadesda.org](http://www.cascadesda.org) / 541.749.9005  
James Rafferty

## JULY 17-23

Youth Conference  
Herghelii Health Center, Romania  
[www.herghelia.org](http://www.herghelia.org)  
Fred Bischoff

## AUGUST 13, 27

Cascade Adventist Church  
Bend, OR  
[www.cascadesda.org](http://www.cascadesda.org) / 541.749.9005  
James Rafferty

## JULY 5-9

Light Bearers Convocation  
Jasper, OR  
[www.lightbearers.org](http://www.lightbearers.org) / 541.988.3333  
Ty, James, David, Jeffrey, Fred, Risë

## JULY 25-29

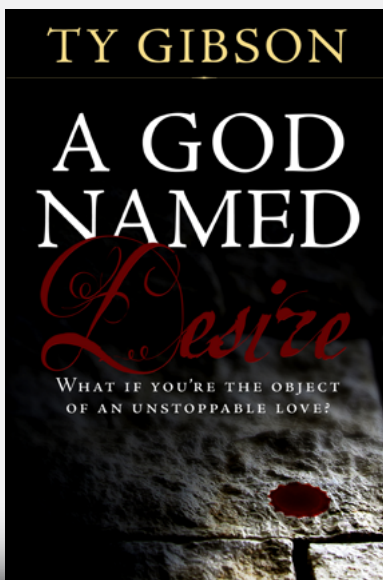
British Columbia Camp Meeting  
Hope, BC Canada  
[www.bcadventist.ca](http://www.bcadventist.ca) / 604.853.5451  
Ty Gibson and James Rafferty

## SEPTEMBER 10, 24

Cascade Adventist Church  
Bend, OR  
[www.cascadesda.org](http://www.cascadesda.org) / 541.749.9005  
James Rafferty

see more events at [lightbearers.org](http://lightbearers.org)

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