

# MISSION UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2016

## LOVE BECAUSE . . .

BY FRED BISCHOFF

**WHY DOES GOD LOVE** us? Simply put, *because* that is what and who He is (1 John 4:8, 16), just as what you are directs your actions. What He does in loving us can be measured by its “breadth, and length, and depth, and height” (Ephesians 3:18).

Love leads people to make things. The same is true of God. Thus “the LORD He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves” (Psalm 100:3). More than that, His love leads Him to redeem those who have removed themselves from this intimacy. The Bible says at least twice that this is why and how He redeemed Israel (Deuteronomy 7:8; Isaiah 63:9). And furthermore, in Jesus He bent down and redeemed all who were caught in the web and curse of sin (Romans 3:23-24; 5:8; Galatians 3:13).

Why does He ask us to love? *Because* He wants us to enter into His joy (Psalm 5:11; John 15:9-12). *Because* He wants us to be like Him (Genesis 1:27; 1 John 3:1-3; 4:19). He enables and empowers the very possibility of love by simply and enormously loving us. He then asks us to respond in kind, to love Him back, and to pass it on, to love one another with the same kind of unselfish love. The fact that He has to ask speaks not of the weakness of His love, but of the damage the loss of love has caused us. But what He asks,

He does, and what He commands, He enables, all by His love, which expresses who He is.

His love is designed to operate in a reciprocal fashion. You know how that works. Someone who truly loves is hoping for love in return, not in a selfish way, but in a joyful way, longing to draw the other into a freely-given, responsive love. Love simply desires others to share its joy. God’s love naturally looks for love.

The main expression of love is in giving.

The main expression of love is in giving. “God so loved the world, that He gave” the best He had to give (John 3:16). As creatures, in order to give we must first receive, but the purpose of receiving is simply to have something to give. Therein is the joy, the greater blessing of giving (Acts 20:35).

What is the cost of love? This would be a strange question if we lived where only love exists. But in the work of love to fill the voids where it is missing, it will experience pain. In loving the unloving, love experiences the pain of their lack of love, in identifying with their hurt, and especially in enduring the pain of loving without being loved in return. 🔥

*(To be continued . . .)*



# LITERATURE EVANGELISM IN TANZANIA

BY ZADOK MKONO AND MEIRING PRETORIUS

## **MAGOMENI SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

believes that the most rapid and cost-effective way of placing the gospel in the hands of humanity's hungry masses is through spreading truth-filled literature and publications.

It is because of this inherent faith we decided to contact Light Bearers Ministry (LBM), requesting their collaboration and partnership with us for achieving this soul-saving objective. Our request was accepted by LBM and we received two 20-foot containers loaded with four million publications, free of charge, written in Kiswahili and English for distribution to the most needy and receptive people of Tanzania.

In fulfilling this mission, we combined several evangelistic campaign methods of reaching our people. The strategies used included house-to-house visitation, Sabbath School classes, Bible study classes and public effort campaigns in the churches and open grounds. We sent the publications to various institutions of higher learning in Tanzania. We opened Bible classes in schools, prisons, hospitals and strategic points of influence.

About 28 churches in Dar es Salaam (DSM) were allocated and given publications for distribution. About 10 churches in the coastal region were allocated materials to distribute, and about 15 institutions all over Tanzania were contacted and given materials to distribute.

A total of 1559 boxes filled with evangelistic literature including *Bible Speaks* tracts, which teach the 28 fundamental beliefs of our faith, were received. Each box holding the gospel literature weighs around 23 kilograms, or 50-51 pounds.

The most frequently requested materials are:

- Bibles in the English language
- *Gundua (Discover)* Bible study guides in Kiswahili
- *Discover* Bible study guides in English
- *Great Controversy* book in English
- *Tumaini kuu (Great Controversy)* book in Kiswahili
- *Hidden Wisdom* tracts (selected chapters from the Conflict of Ages series) in Kiswahili

By distributing these evangelistic materials many people are gladly accepting Jesus as their Savior and Lord. More than 500 people have been baptized so far in all churches and institutions that sent us their reports. LBM is, for us, a providential gift and God-given challenge to bring the everlasting gospel to this end-time generation.

By God's grace, LBM equipped us with the literature needed. It was now our opportunity to reach out to the people. Through the Sabbath School classes, all members were required to carry to their homes or work place, neighbors, schools or institutions, *Steps to Christ* or *Discover* Bible guides and open Bible study classes.

We suggested they open Bible study classes in their homes or place of work to friends and relatives, or even to friends who visit our church regularly on Sabbath day. We used several methods to find interests.

We approached individuals who completed a Bible correspondence course, parents of children who attended vacation Bible schools (VBS), and non-SDA students studying in Adventist schools and their parents. We also approached our friends whom we invited from our past evangelistic meetings and have not yet made decisions for Jesus. All of the groups were reached by individual members of Sabbath School classes, and their reports were given on every Sabbath during the 25 minutes of witnessing.

This approach of house-to-house evangelism lasted for three months, April-June. The results were great, church members increased by 47 new souls. Surely there was a blessing in our toil. There was joy in our labor.

## VISITING WITH LITERATURE IN DAR ES SALAAM

The church sponsored several visitation programs in our neighborhoods, institutions of higher learning, prisons, hospitals, universities, and public places like bus stations. This is where the work of spreading the truth-filled literature from LBM was conducted.

The chaplaincy department distributed *Signs of the Time* magazines, Bibles, *Great Controversy* books, *Steps to Christ*, Bible study lessons, and *Hidden Wisdom* tracts to Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) where many students from various denominations study. The publications were quickly taken, and the students still demand more materials because many of them have not been able to read our messages.

Ubungo Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church distributed LBM literature at Ubungo Bus Terminal (UBT), and many travellers took our message.

Mzizima Seventh-day Adventist Church visited more than 410 homes of the Indian community in the city around Upanga's residential area for the first time, giving them our message in the Bible studies, books, tracts and magazines. Many of them requested more materials written in their languages.

The materials distributed to these communities, institutions of higher learning and the UBT included the following:

*The Great Controversy* book, *Steps to Christ* study series, Bibles, *Hidden Wisdom* tracts, *Sign of Times* magazines and Ugunduzi (*Discover*) Bible study guides.

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah" (Acts 5:42).

Through this approach, the whole city of DSM has been evangelized because Magomeni membership is scattered all over the city. 🔥



### LITERATURE EVANGELISM ABROAD

Each year, your donations send millions of pieces of literature to countries like Tanzania. Partner with us to spread more light!

# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

## SEPTEMBER 9-10

Church of the Advent Hope  
New York, NY  
adventhope.org / 212.534.8245  
Ty Gibson

## SEPTEMBER 10, 24

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

## SEPTEMBER 15

3ABN *Today LIVE*  
www.3ABN.org / 618.627.4651  
James Rafferty

## SEPTEMBER 16-17

Iowa-Missouri Women's Retreat  
Kansas City, MO  
www.imsda.org / 515.223.1197  
Risë Rafferty

## SEPTEMBER 20-22

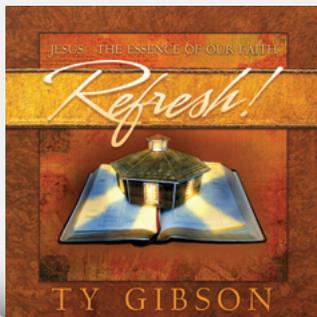
Andrews University  
Berrien Springs, MI  
www.andrews.edu  
Ty Gibson

## OCTOBER 7-9

ASI Spain Conference  
Madrid, Spain  
www.asi-spain.org  
Ty Gibson

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

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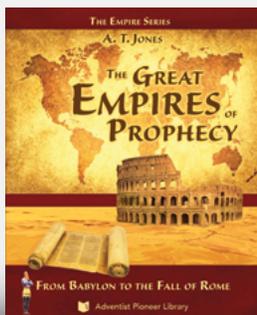


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