

MISSION UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2016

SINK OR SWIM

BY JAMES RAFFERTY

THE FIRST CRISIS I can remember experiencing came when I was four years old and fell backwards into a swimming pool. I couldn't swim and my mom was in another country . . . it seemed. I was going down for sure, but after a heroic effort and what seemed like eternity (but was really just a few brief seconds) I grabbed the rail and was safe again. After that I learned to swim.

The first crisis I don't remember came when I was three years old and buried Grandma's false teeth somewhere in the back garden. We never found them again, but Grandma always seemed to enjoy telling the story.

As a young man, Joseph faced a much greater crisis than mine when he was betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery, and then wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife. Joseph learned to swim by trusting in God.

Daniel was also young when he faced his crisis—he was separated from his family, taken to another country, and forced to embrace its culture. Daniel learned to swim by trusting in God.

Moses' world fell apart at an older age when he trusted in himself. He then spent 40 years learning how to swim by trusting in God.


David's crisis came when his life was threatened by a jealous king. David too learned to swim by trusting in God.

The disciples faced their crises when Jesus was crucified. Yet as the risen Christ was revealed to them, they put their trust fully in Him—and learned to swim.

The Bible reminds us that the trials of life do not need to take us down.

What crisis are you facing right now? Are you trying to manage it by yourself? A crisis can be seen as a friend or an enemy, a time to sink or swim.

In a crisis we learn to swim, to trust in the power of God rather than our own strength.

The Bible reminds us that the trials of life do not need to take us down. Instead of sinking down in despair, we can learn to swim, to depend totally on God and grab the rail of His promises if we fall back into the waters of this world. They encourage us to give our deepest hurts and hopes to God in prayer. They urge us to feed upon His word for strength. They insist that no matter how bad things look, we can trust the Most High. Amen. 



HOW FAR INTO AFRICA?

BY MEIRING PRETORIUS

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED how the gospel message will reach every person on the globe? Well, this is God's promise in His Word according to Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (NKJV). A huge part of this promise is being fulfilled already. God's Spirit is at work all over the world and He wants to give us an even greater measure of His Spirit. I stand in awe every time I see how God reaches people and touches their hearts, not only those being converted but also the hearts of those who bring the message of love. It has been my privilege to see the extensive and far-reaching effects of passing out gospel literature in Africa.

It all started when my wife and I were on our way to visit a Bible worker in the Northern Luapula Province of Zambia (God sent us to this country to serve as missionaries for 12 years). When traveling in African countries you will encounter what are called "checkpoints," each with a barrier across the road. At these checkpoints, police officers can screen you and your vehicle for anything from diseases to passports to vehicle licenses. As we approached one of these checkpoints in a remote area, we noticed the officer was reading a piece of paper. After we stopped, he approached our vehicle with the paper still in his hand. Then I noticed it was a familiar piece of literature: it was a Discover guide Bible lesson, printed by Light Bearers Ministry. I was amazed to say the least. How did this pamphlet get to this person in this remote place? Only God knows the answer to that mystery, but He opened my mind to see the large-scale potential of this method of evangelism. This was the starting of a more serious relationship with Light Bearers Ministry to provide us with material in Zambia.

How far can the printed page go? If you could have the privilege like I have, of working with Light Bearers Ministry and traveling to different African countries, you would be

During the night a strong wind
blew and spread the pamphlets
across town.

amazed, just as I was in Zambia. Spreading the lessons and pamphlets like the leaves of autumn becomes a reality. I always smile when I think of the experience of a Bible worker who took some boxes of Discover guides home to share with friends. That night he left the boxes outside of his house, still open. During the night a strong wind blew and spread the pamphlets across town. You can imagine the surprise on the Bible worker's face when he woke up the next morning. The next few days he had neighbors and strangers knocking on his door, asking for the rest of the lessons. Does God have a sense of humor? Maybe this was a lesson on how the literature should be distributed across the globe?

One of the most encouraging and moving stories I have heard was in the city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania during one of my visits there for Light Bearers Ministry. Peter Daudi, an evangelist who works with women who are divorced, found out that most women who are separated from their husbands become prostitutes. They do this because of unemployment, a lack of support, and sometimes rejection by society. Peter's heart was touched. How could he reach these women for Christ? He prayed earnestly for 10 days for God to show him where he could find these women. God opened the doors and Peter found the centers where the prostitutes work.

He decided to knock on the doors of these homes with literature in his hands. It was a surprise to the ladies that he was not interested in their "business" but came to give them a present. He gave them a Bible lesson and \$1, the price men pay to receive their services. The first day he reached into the "homes" of 25 prostitutes. He got their phone numbers, and this was the start of a change amongst these women. The ladies would dress properly when the evangelist visited. He never looked down on them since they are valuable to God. Some prostitutes would read the

material within a short period of time. It showed their hunger for Christ.

So far, 1250 ladies have been reached. In Dar es Salaam, 47 prostitutes have been baptized. The number of ladies who have finished the lessons is 787. From the 47 whom were baptized, 18 whom have left their previous "employment" need to find support. The evangelist is praying about opening a cafeteria/restaurant in order to help and employ these women.

I stand amazed! 



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SPEAKING SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 3-5

Ntnl. Medical Missionary Convention
Camaguey, Cuba
henry.stubbs@gmail.com
Ty Gibson

NOVEMBER 5, 12

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

DECEMBER 2-4

Reimagining God Seminar
North Surrey, British Columbia
www.letsmovevancouver.com/events/
Ty Gibson

NOVEMBER 5

Springfield Adventist Church
Springfield, OR
541.746.8263
Fred Bischoff

NOVEMBER 7-9

Southern Union Conference
Evangelism Council (EC3),
Collegedale, TN
503.380.8252
Ty Gibson

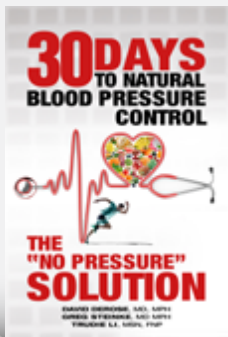
DECEMBER 3, 17, 31

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

see more events at lightbearers.org

THIS HOLIDAY, GIVE A GIFT OF LIFE!

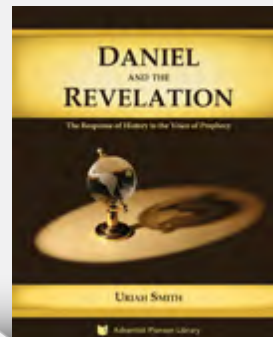
SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2016



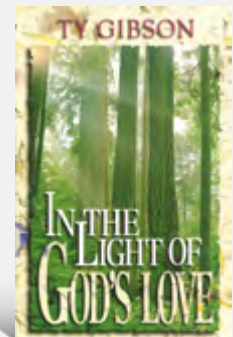
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