

MISSION UPDATE

JULY 2017

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

JEFFREY ROSARIO

*“So don’t delay, for the road less traveled
is where I’ll stay
and I will go, wherever you lead me Lord
I know you’re not safe, but at least I’m free.”*

The songwriter who penned these lyrics captured a reality about the Christian journey. Walking with God often leads us to the road less traveled—unexpected circumstances, unfamiliar territory, and challenges for which we feel unqualified.


The unknown is something we naturally recoil from, but it’s what the God of Abraham specializes in. “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out . . . And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8). Ordinary people pushing against the boundaries of possibility and venturing onto uncharted territory—this is what drives the Old Testament narrative forward.

But in what sense can the songwriter say that the Lord is “not safe”? At least in the sense that our own agenda, comfort, and selfish pride are not safe in the glorious presence of God. *“I know you’re not safe, but at least I’m*

free.” While everything within us recoils from any threats to the control we leverage over our own lives, surrendering to the “unsafe” God actually makes us free.

Daniel and his companions, like Abraham, were thrust on a journey with mysterious forces at work behind the scenes and out of their control. They could not foresee or comprehend what God had in store in the disruption of their lives as they were marched from Jerusalem to Babylon (Daniel 1:1-3). Yet, had they remained in Jerusalem, they would not have been surrounded by the unique circumstances that challenged them and made them blossom spiritually.

When we hang out in Jerusalem too long, we begin to take things for granted. But in Babylon they were on a road less traveled—unexpected circumstances, unfamiliar territory, and challenges for which they felt unqualified. In that strange world, they flourished in the way they related to their faith and the way they related to the world around them.

It’s in the unknown that we truly know ourselves; in the unexpected we learn what to expect from God. We tend to blossom spiritually when we step out of our comfort zone. Is it safe there? Nope. But at least we’ll be free because, though we may not know where we’re going, we can be confident about who is leading us. 



GO YE

JAMES RAFFERTY

ARISE AUSTRALIA IS FIVE years old and each year has been a wonderful experience. The dedicated staff of the North New South Wales (NNSW) Conference and the workers directing the program make the impact of this 15-week Bible school tremendous.

Here are the numbers:

- 48 students (including 3 last minute additions in week 12)
- 4 rebaptisms
- 5 first-time baptisms

- 1 contact from last year baptized
- 13 requests for baptism (contacts from this year's outreach)
- 1 atheist physics lecturer converted
- 1 heroin addict delivered
- 1 powerful community service project in the wake of a natural disaster
- 1 testimony after another of God's grace and power

Let's start with the cyclone that hit the Queensland Coast right in the middle of the school session: record breaking floods, several deaths, and thousands of people evacuated from their homes. The planned evangelistic series was postponed and so the students fully engaged in community outreach during the day time which meant that classes ran at

night. Students spent three weeks engaging with the locals by shoveling mud, water blasting houses, and clearing flood debris from properties, public schools and businesses. One student asked a local home goods store to donate three new washing machines and three new dryers that were then set up in a local Adventist church which advertised the service to the community who had lost their downstairs laundries.

What they give and receive from the mission work they do in AFL is shaking up enemy territory and saving souls from addiction, darkness and pain by bringing hope, healing and salvation.

Another interruption of sorts was “Big Camp,” the conference camp meeting where the class picked up three extra students; one was an atheist ethics lecturer, and another was a recent ex-heroin addict.

Tijl (tell), was from the Netherlands. A broken relationship led him to take a year off in Australia and (through a long train of circumstances that we would call Providence) he ended up at Big Camp, the NSW Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting. There he accepted Jesus, though he still had many questions about the Bible, especially creation. In so many ways it was hard to tell Tijl was a brand-new, one week old Christian believer. He engaged in the classes, the door-to-door outreach, lived with the students, and even ended up delivering one of the best sermons in the preaching practicum. The students embraced him and loved him, taught him and learned from him. They were a magnetic class, a group of amazing students, an evangelistic machine!

And many of them were brand-new Christians like Lawson, a former world-class motorcycle racer whose life fell apart when his wealthy parents went bankrupt and then divorced. In the process of recovery from deep depression, two ARISE “for life” students knocked on his door and invited him to lunch. It was just what he needed to move toward a new life with Jesus; and in less than six months he was in ARISE himself, door knocking and asking to study the Bible with others.

Another of our week three additions was Brenton, a now former heroin addict, raised SDA. Wrong influences in his teenage years eventually lead to some jail time and for years all his family could do was pray for him. But prayer is so powerful and so is the impact Brenton is having on anyone who hears his testimony.

So what happens after the 15-week course finishes up? ARISE for life (AFL)! takes what the students have learned to the next level. This year it will include 24 of the 46 students who will continue on to volunteer for six months at churches, church plants, schools and even on a traveling evangelistic team, doing full time Bible work. What they give and receive from the mission work they do in AFL is shaking up enemy territory and saving souls from addiction, darkness and pain by bringing hope, healing and salvation.

This class of 45+3 was the largest ARISE Australia yet and there is so much more to tell. To see it, to be part of it, and to know firsthand what God wrought through the men and women who are ARISE Australia 2017 was truly wonderful.

Please pray for these ARISE students and all who have graduated this year and every year as they take to heart the parting words of Christ—“Go Ye.” Amen. 🕯



SHAKE THE ENEMY'S TERRITORY

You don't have to attend ARISE to make an impact. When you give, you provide training and support for someone that would not have the opportunity.

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

JULY 4-8

Light Bearers Convocation
Jasper, Oregon
James Rafferty, Ty Gibson, David Asscherick, Jeffrey Rosario, Fred Bischoff, Risë Rafferty
www.lightbearers.org

JULY 18-22

Oregon Conference Camp Meeting
Gladstone, OR
Ty Gibson
orgccampmeeting.adventistnw.org

JULY 24-29

Northern California Conference
Redwoods Camp Meeting
Redcrest, CA
Ty Gibson
www.nccsda.com/article/85/about-us/links/redwood-camp-meeting

AUGUST 1-5

European Adventist Youth Congress
Valencia, Spain
Ty Gibson, Jeffrey Rosario
www.aycongress.org

see more events at lightbearers.org

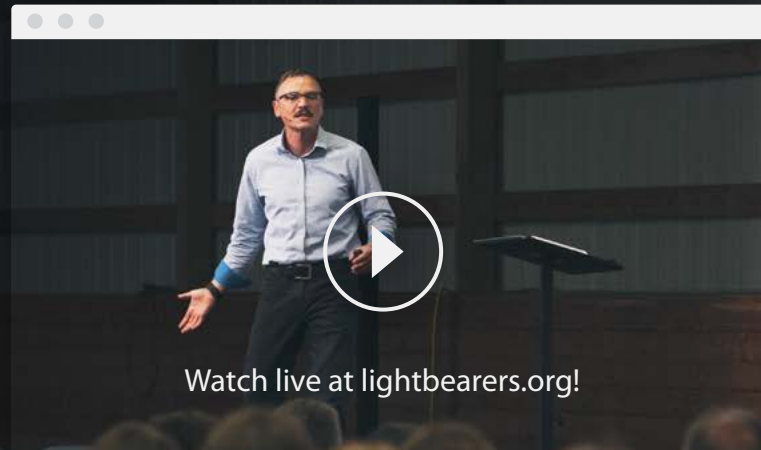
SEPTEMBER 17-23

Fountainview Academy
Lillooet, British Columbia, Canada
Ty Gibson
fountainviewacademy.ca

OCTOBER 13-14

Azure Hills Church
Grand Terrace, CA
Ty Gibson
www.azurehills.org

Can't make it to Convocation this year?



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500 THE REFORMATION CONTINUES

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