

MISSION UPDATE

OCTOBER 2017

SURPRISE VICTORY

FRED BISCHOFF

DO YOU LIKE WINNING? And do you like surprises?

Have you heard that the only way you can win in life's ultimate contest is through the unselfish giving of genuine love? The meek and lowly win, and the braggarts and proud lose! Surprise!

The opposite principles of good and evil are not only the issues in conflict, but are also the weapons. Satan began the battle by speaking the lie, promoting selfishness, taking, even life, eventually even the life of Jesus. Jesus fought using the truth, unselfish giving, even giving Himself.

Righteousness describes the image of God in which man was created, but lost when the lie came. In other words, mankind abandoned faith and love. God restores sinful humans—He wins in the battle of no faith and love—by simply treating us sinners with faith and love. If we receive these gifts and return them to Him and pass them on to others, we wear the “breastplate” in the battle.

This is why Paul in one place stressed the importance of “having on the breastplate of righteousness” (Ephesians 6:14), and elsewhere wrote of “putting on the breastplate of faith and love” (1 Thessalonians 5:8). A “breastplate”

may appear to serve only a defensive function, but its effectiveness in protecting one against the attacks of faithlessness and lovelessness makes it a powerful, offensive weapon to win others to the same way of fighting.

In Jesus' identification with sin and death, He overcame both by His faith and love, and on our behalf.

God's restoration of His image in man is motivated by His core character quality, that of humble, unselfish love. And this love He expresses in promises (“I will do . . .”) and commands (“[You will] do . . .”), words of creative faith, believing all things. The positive response to these words of God is described as faith also, a responsive faith. This faith God counts as righteousness, because it is, and it works by love, a love that is but a response to His love. And thus one overcomes evil with good.

In Jesus' identification with sin and death, He overcame both by His faith and love, and on our behalf. By identifying with every sinner, He has included us in His victory, enabling everyone to experience all the good they have. We are now called to good cheer (John 16:33), and to overcome as He did (Revelation 3:21).

Surprise others by the simplicity of His victory! 



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF LIGHT BEARERS

TY GIBSON

IT'S 6 AM AND already 17 new emails have appeared in my inbox. No, wait, four more just arrived, so make that 21. By 9 o'clock there will be 40 or more. Here's one from Stephanie, who coordinates literature shipments from Light Bearers. She is excited to share the good news that the container of gospel tracts we've been trying to get cleared for distribution in India has just been officially released from customs. "Praise God," I reply. Here's another email from Karl announcing that all the new students for the 2017 ARISE discipleship program are now situated in the dorm and ready for the first day of class. Here's another one from a brother who lives New York City explaining that he has been so powerfully impacted by watching *Table Talk*—our discussion format television

program—that it has "saved my life and my marriage and delivered me from addiction."

After a workout, breakfast, and a shower, I head to campus for the first day of a thirteen week journey. As I stand up to teach the opening day of classes—which is a whirlwind tour of the entire story of the Bible as a preliminary overview for what's coming—I look out at the rows of students, and it's a beautiful sight to behold. On the front row to my right is a young man from Croatia named Stjepan. He stands out because his eyes are two different colors. Right behind him is a young lady who's already had a lifetime of pain and she's only 19 years old, with cowboy boots on her feet and a big smile on her face. There's a 22-year-old guy with long brown hair who was raised in the Nazarene church and found us by watching YouTube videos, a 19-year-old boy from Pakistan who's been preaching sermons since he was a little boy, a slender guy from Uganda, a gangster-looking kid from San Diego, a curly-headed boy from Brazil, and a bunch of others all lined up in rows eager to open the Word of God and do

ministry in the community. They'll all be here with us for a significant chunk of time, and by the end of the experience they will be testifying to the radical transformation that has occurred in their perception of God, themselves, and others. They will never be the same.

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When I'm done teaching for the day, I drop by the office. I can hear the hum of the printing press coming from the publishing house, a 20,000 square foot building behind the Light Bearers office. Brent and Daniel are hard at work, printing, folding, boxing, palletizing, and organizing a nonstop stream of gospel literature, which is loaded into containers and then shipped to designated areas around the world. These two men are performing a hugely impactful ministry for millions of people. Each piece of literature is a sermon, a message, a powerful declaration of God's saving love. In the

work they do, Brent and Daniel preach more sermons in a single day than I'll preach in my entire lifetime. But sermons must be preached, and what a privilege it is to do so. I'll spend the rest of the evening preparing messages for an upcoming evangelistic series in Denver.

Of course, there is a lot more to it than this and there are many other Light Bearers team members engaged in various ministry projects for the proclamation of the gospel, but this gives you a simple snapshot of what a day in the life of Light Bearers looks like. What an awesome privilege it is to work with this dedicated team of people to advance the kingdom of Christ and hasten His soon return! As 2017 begins to draw to a close, we want to thank you for being a part of this ministry through your prayers and support. 🔥



JOIN THE TEAM

Your support is what makes each facet of this ministry possible. Please consider partnering with us at lightbearers.org/donate/



SPEAKING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 7

Fall Creek Adventist Church
Fall Creek, OR
James Rafferty
541.937.3526

OCTOBER 20-22

Global Public Campus Ministry Weekend
General Conference, Silver Spring, MD
Jeffrey Rosario
pcm.adventist.org

OCTOBER 27-29

CRAVE
Eugene, OR
Ty Gibson
www.lightbearers.org

OCTOBER 13-14

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

OCTOBER 21

Fall Creek Adventist Church
Fall Creek, OR
James Rafferty
541.937.3526

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 4

Pleasant Valley Adventist Church
Happy Valley, OR
Ty Gibson
pvclife.com

see more events at lightbearers.org

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