

# MISSION UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2018

## UNBELIEVABLY DIABOLICAL

TY GIBSON

It's no secret that Christianity is dying in Western countries. There are a number of factors contributing to this trend, but maybe the biggest is the fact that mainstream Christianity is asking the world to believe two doctrines that together compose the most diabolical picture of God imaginable—predestination and eternal torment.

Think this through. Predestination, as generally taught, says God decides each person's eternal destiny—saved or lost. Then, "lost" is defined as spending eternity in the flames of hell. The logical conclusion? God creates some people for the purpose of torturing them forever. They have no choice, because God chose their fate. "It's all part of His sovereign plan, for His inscrutable glory," we're told. "Who are you to question God?"


Many rational people simply cannot believe in a God like this. Nor can I. Yet I do believe in God. To unbelievers, I'd say something like this: *You know that God you don't believe in? Well, I don't believe in him either.*

In 1823, Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter to John Adams, expressing his unbelief:

"I can never join Calvin in addressing his god. He was indeed an atheist, which I can never be; or rather his religion was Daemonism. If ever man worshipped a false god, he did. The being described in his five points, is not the god you and I acknowledge and adore, the Creator and benevolent governor of the world; but a daemon or malignant spirit. It would be more pardonable to believe in no god at all, than to blaspheme him by the atrocious attributes of Calvin. 'The value of deism, in its last and American ambit, was that it prevented confessional religion from driving human beings into atheism as its only alternative.'" (Michael Buckley, *At the Origins of Modern Atheism*, quoting a letter in 1823 by Thomas Jefferson to John Adams.)

Jefferson saw the god of Calvinism as demonic, but at the same time he believed the true God must be better than that.

What if we proclaimed to the world a picture of God that looks like this:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:16-17). 



## INVISIBLE POSSIBILITIES

MEIRING PRETORIUS

The Eastern and Western Tanzania Conferences organized a series of public evangelistic meetings for June 2017. With 300 Seventh-day Adventist churches in the city of Dar es Salaam and every church hosting three separate sites, the effort was huge (900 sites altogether). Backed up with a container of Bible lessons from Light Bearers Ministry, the result was astounding—105,000 souls baptized! By getting all the churches to work together, we were able to further Total Member Involvement (TMI). Many evangelists are working in the newly sown fields and every member is embracing a new convert.

The gospel, channelled through literature from Light Bearers Ministry, awakens in many hearts a desire to know God and

share Him. It changes people from the inside. Through their testimonies, I have found that many are searching for truth and they have found it through the Bible lessons and have been set free.

But I had mixed feelings—at first—when a young man by the name of Peter Daudi spoke to me about his ministry in the city of Dar es Salaam. Let me explain. He uses the Bible lessons as a tool to snatch prostitutes out of Satan's grip and to help them see how they can become new creatures in Christ.

Previously, Peter was working with single ladies who had no work. He tried to help relieve their situations. Soon this work brought him in contact with the world of prostitution in Dar es Salaam. Through prayer, fasting, and asking God to reveal these places of prostitution to him, he was led to where the women worked. His heart was stirred as more of these centers were discovered. In Dar es Salaam, as to date, there are 37 of these "dark" centers, nine full hotels, and 93 streets

where ladies are picked up. Every center has 600 to 700 ladies waiting for their “customers.” The task of helping them is overwhelming.


Coming “close” to these ladies has a new meaning for him now.

At the end of 2015, Peter ventured into these slums and dark alleys for the first time, approaching the commercial sex workers, as they are called, from a different angle. He took with him Bible lessons and some money. First, he would give them one US dollar, the amount a man pays for a prostitute’s services. He did not want the women to feel that he was wasting their time. Then he would introduce something better to them—God’s word through the Bible lessons. The response was surprisingly positive. The women were hungry for something to satisfy their real need. And the lessons did just that.

The method he uses is wonderful in its simplicity. It reminds me of Jesus’ method in reaching the people. Coming “close” to these ladies has a new meaning for him now. As he ministers to their needs, studies the Bible with them, and wins their confidence, they start opening up to him and telling him their life stories. Soon after listening, he makes an appeal, “Don’t you want to come with me to church?”

Their responses are positive. Through God’s grace, Peter has reached 3,700 ladies. Forty-two of them have been baptized and more than 100 are leaving their practices.

I followed Peter through one of the prostitution slums to visit some of these ladies with whom he is studying. It was a humbling experience. These women are living under a heavy burden of condemnation and guilt. They have a deep longing to quit this way of living, but don’t know how. However, these lessons are giving them a glimpse of new invisible possibilities that can only be realized within God’s amazing love. They know they are loved and accepted by their Creator.

Recently I listened to a lecture on “invisible possibilities,” and it suddenly dawned on me that God’s word brings out the invisible possibilities in every person. God’s word is powerful to transform—if every person can just have the opportunity to read its message. Love awakens love, which means eternal possibilities! 



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# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

## FEBRUARY 3

Fall Creek Adventist Church  
Fall Creek, Oregon  
<http://fallcreekor.adventistchurch.org>  
James Rafferty

## FEBRUARY 17

Fall Creek Adventist Church  
Fall Creek, Oregon  
<http://fallcreekor.adventistchurch.org>  
James Rafferty

## MARCH 17

Fall Creek Adventist Church  
Fall Creek, Oregon  
<http://fallcreekor.adventistchurch.org>  
James Rafferty

## FEBRUARY 9-11

Righteousness by Faith Retreat  
Abiding Place Farm, Orlando, Florida  
[www.eventbrite.com/e/righteousness-by-faith-retreat-tickets-37328763336](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/righteousness-by-faith-retreat-tickets-37328763336)  
Fred Bischoff

## MARCH 3

Fall Creek Adventist Church  
Fall Creek, Oregon  
<http://fallcreekor.adventistchurch.org>  
James Rafferty

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

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