

MISSION UPDATE

MARCH 2018

RESCUED IN CHRIST

JAMES RAFFERTY

“BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

Paul tells us that when the appointed time came, God arrived!

God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law. When Christ united Himself with us, what we are, He became. By doing that, He was qualified to be our Savior.

Jesus became human, taking on Himself fallen human nature. He came under the law and therefore was subject to the consequences of the law. Yet Jesus lived a perfect life with no sin. Still, He was condemned to death. He shouldered the condemnation of the fallen human race.

All the consequences we deserved, Jesus, the second Adam (1 Corinthians 15:47), took on Himself. They should have come to the first Adam. They would have annihilated not only him but also all of us. We never would have been here had the first Adam received the consequences of sin. But it came to the second Adam. It annihilated Him, taking

Him to the grave with such forsakenness in His thoughts and feelings that He could see no hope of resurrection (Psalm 88:8). Jesus exhausted our penalty as a human. He legally and justly satisfied the penalty of sin for the human race. Humanity has paid the price for sin in Adam, the second Adam.

We never would have been here had the first Adam received the consequences of sin.

This is no legal fiction. This is gospel truth. The second Adam took our sin and experienced the second death. We were in Him because Christ identified *with our* sin. He was punished not just for us, but as us. As us, He satisfied the wages of our sin. He was identified as the human race—the corporate human race. Therefore, His suffering was our suffering.

In a very real sense we died in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14). He became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21). This is proven by the fact that Christ did not sin. If He had sinned, it would have been over, but because Christ did not sin, His death can only be connected to our sin. We have been rescued from our sin in Christ. Now we can live, not for sin, but for Jesus. That is the wonderful truth of the gospel. Amen. 🔥



LAND OF FIRE AND WARM HEARTS

TY GIBSON

ONE OF THE BEST experiences I've ever had as an evangelist was in Malawi. I preached from a wooden platform constructed of an odd mixture of wood, sheet metal, bricks, and colorful cloth. Speakers were hung in trees. There were a few chairs, but most of the thousands of people in attendance stood or sat on the ground. Their faces—wide eyes, looking with intense interest—are forever imprinted on my memory.

After my first two nights of preaching, a group of brothers pulled me aside to share something with me. Their demeanor indicated that they were nervous and had something of a sensitive nature to say. I could never have guessed what they were going to tell me. “Pastor,” their chosen spokesperson

said with humility and respect, “is it possible when you are preaching that you could sometimes jump, and also shout?” Caught off guard a little (or a lot), I fumbled in my response.

“Jump? You mean . . . like . . . jump . . . like . . . up off the platform?”

“Yes,” they instructed. “Just bend your knees and then push upward. The people will like it very much.”

“Oh,” I replied, lost for an answer. “Well, I don’t really jump when I’m preaching. I’m not coordinated enough to jump and preach at the same time.”

That was a lame answer. I knew it and they knew it. They kindly laughed and let me off the hook. I preached my heart out for the remainder of the series with my feet firmly planted.

“Malawi” is derived from an ancient Chichewa word that means “flames,” likely a reference to the blazing sun that

heats this southeastern African country. The country is also nicknamed, "The Warm Heart of Africa," which is so fitting. I felt nothing but a friendly warmth from the beautiful people of Malawi.

There are approximately 500,000 Seventh-day Adventists in Malawi . . .

With a landmass of about 45,000 square miles, 20 percent of which is water, and a population of 18,000,000, Malawi is one of the smallest and most densely populated countries in Africa.

There are approximately 500,000 Seventh-day Adventists in Malawi, with an active and mobilized membership. The Malawi Union Conference is completely committed to the General Conference initiative, Total Member Involvement. Light Bearers figures prominently into their soul-winning mission. We have had the privilege of sending millions of gospel publications to Malawi. For this year, church leaders in Malawi have requested two containers of truth-filled literature, both in English and Chichewa.

They said the last literature we sent has done wonders for their Union, to the extent that many souls were won to Christ.

Reporting on the effect of the previous shipment we sent, Frackson Kuyama, president of the Malawi Union, said, "Indeed, the lessons have proven to be one of the powerful tools for soul winning." When asked how the materials will be used, Elder Kuyama explains that church leaders and members are planning to target many rural and urban areas with mass literature distribution, followed up by multiple evangelistic meetings.

To supply the literature needs of our brothers and sisters in Malawi, Light Bearers needs to raise \$160,000. That's \$80,000 per container, each of which holds about two million publications, working out to about five cents per piece. This is by far the most cost-effective communication method to disseminate the three angels' messages.

I can tell you firsthand that, although I did not jump while preaching, the precious people of Malawi are eager to know Jesus. We thank you, our partners in ministry, for your financial backing as we flood the land of fire and warm hearts with gospel literature. 🔥



SEND LIGHT TO THE LAND OF FIRE!

Your support makes it possible for us to warm the hearts of Malawians with the gospel. Consider partnering with us as we send literature to Malawi.



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AUGUST 20 - NOVEMBER 17

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

MARCH 3

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

MARCH 17

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

MARCH 23-25

Hungarian Union Conference
Budapest, Hungary
Ty Gibson
ertekteremto@adventista.hu

APRIL 5-8

Florida Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists Camp Meeting
High Springs, Florida
Ty Gibson
<https://floridaconference.com>

MAY 27—31

Carolina Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists
Lake, North Carolina
Ty Gibson
<https://www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting>

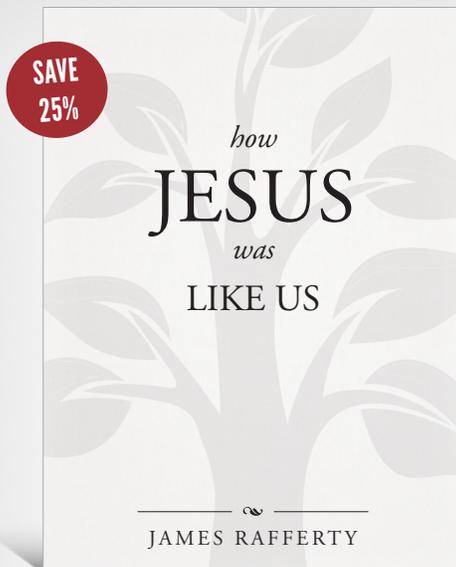
see more events at lightbearers.org

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Light Bearers Convocation | July 3-7, 2018 | Jasper, OR

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