



**LIGHT  
BEARERS**



2024  
Light Bearers  
Annual Report



“I saw the universe change today,”  
and it was through your support  
and prayers that it happened.

## DEAR FRIEND,



Ty Gibson, Speaker/Director

One day, in a little Australian town called Byron Bay, I noticed a sign that said, “I saw the universe change today.” Whoever wrote those words was paying attention.

According to “chaos theory,” the single movement of a butterfly’s wing may be the determining factor in the formation of a hurricane. According to the Bible, the movements of each individual life exert determinative effects on other lives.

As God went forward with the work of creation, only three conceivable possibilities lay before Him. He could create (1) robots, (2) slaves, or (3) free moral agents. Only the third option would be consistent with the aspirations of love. So here we are, beings of huge and magnificent significance, beings who matter so much that our actions run adjacent to God’s actions, as genuinely free beings who possess the power to create effects for which we alone are the cause, and which ripple into eternity with never-ending impact.

At Light Bearers, we have the immense privilege of witnessing the ripple effects of your support as the story of God’s love illuminates hearts and minds. This year, 2024, has been no different. We have seen communities transformed through our publishing ministry, young adults empowered and equipped by ARISE, relationships flourish in community, and lives renewed through biblical, Christ-

centered preaching. It is our honor to share a few of those stories with you here.

Daniel the prophet realized the weightiness of our moral influence when he said, “those that turn many to righteousness” will “shine . . . like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). As you read this annual report, I hope you feel yourself shine just a bit brighter, knowing that you played a part in turning many to righteousness. There are people around the world right now who are loving better, seeing clearer, and sleeping easier because of you. More amazing still, your decision to advance the gospel cause has had a ripple effect upon the very heart of God. Jesus explained that anything we do for or against any human being registers in His heart as if done to Him. What a wondrous thought to know that when we put our love into action, we gladden the heart of God.

“I saw the universe change today,” and it was through your support and prayers that it happened.

Thank you.

In Christ,

Ty Gibson  
Speaker/Director

A Timeline of 2024



**January 5-13** — Ty, David, and Jeffrey preach the Unbelievable series at Loma Linda University Church, sharing how the gospel is too good to not be true. Scan the code to watch the series.

# RIPPLES IN NICARAGUA



Anneliese Stock, Communications Assistant

Apolonio's stomach dropped when he looked under the bus. His luggage was missing. With his evangelistic campaign beginning that night, he didn't have time to lose the Light Bearers Bibles he'd brought from Managua, Nicaragua, not to mention his belongings.

Seeing one bag left that looked like his, Apolonio realized another passenger had mistaken his bag for their own. The only person left at the station was the driver, so

Apolonio gave him his number in case the other passenger reached out.

Then he took his carry-on and the other suitcase to his

lodging. In about an hour, his phone rang. A woman named Maria said, "I hear you have my bag."

Apolonio sat up, "Yes, I do!" They quickly decided on a place to meet.

After hanging up, however, Apolonio felt impressed to take one of the few Bibles he packed in his carry-on and put it in her suitcase.

Soon they met up, swapped bags, and went their separate ways. After Apolonio returned home, his phone rang.

"Did you put a Bible in my bag?" Maria asked.

"Yes," Apolonio replied carefully.

"You have no idea," she said, her voice tight with tears. "I've been praying for months for a Bible." Maria didn't know much about God, but she wanted to. She has since left Nicaragua, but Apolonio continues to keep in touch with her as she studies her Bible.

This interaction, this ripple, was made possible because you believe in the power that a simple gospel-infused track can have. In 2024, we sent seven containers with millions of pieces of gospel-filled literature across the globe. All this material was shipped free of charge because of people like you. We cannot thank you enough on behalf of Maria and all the others experiencing the ripple effects of your support.

**Maria didn't know much about God, but she wanted to.**

**3,840,000**

This year, we published and sent out 3,780,000 pieces of gospel literature and 60,000 Bibles in French, Spanish, and English to be distributed in Zambia, West Congo, Nicaragua, Ghana, Colombia, Botswana, and Senegal.



**January 8-12** – Ty and David preach a Week of Spiritual Renewal at Loma Linda University. The theme, REALigion, explores an intelligent case for God's existence and goodness. Scan the code to watch the series.

**January 14** – ARISE Finland opens for registration. ARISE alumni lead this new sister school.

**February 9-11** – David speaks for the Try This At Home marriage retreat in Norway, exploring practical ways the gospel impacts one of our most important relationships.

**February 12** – The eleventh ARISE Australia class convenes with 45 students, roughly half of whom are teenagers. The biblical narrative is taught with power and clarity. Hearts and lives are transformed.

**February 11-March 3** – Ty kicks off the ARISE Australia class with his paradigm-shifting lectures on narrative theology.



**A WEEKEND DESIGNED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND SCRIPTURE, LIVE ON MISSION, AND MAKE DISCIPLES.**

See the God of Scripture in a way you've possibly never seen Him before at ARISE Intensives. These weekend events will inspire and empower you to share and love the gospel story yourself.



Scan the code or go to [ariseintensive.com](http://ariseintensive.com) to sign up for our email list and be notified of when registration opens.



**February 28** – David concludes OTwithDA, part 2, a three-month series of lives on Instagram and YouTube that takes listeners through the Old Testament.

**March 3-7** – Angelo speaks about the Gospel and brain science at the Adventist Student Personnel Association Conference, a gathering of student services professionals from around North America.

**March 4-28** – David delivers powerful lectures to the ARISE Australia class on the role of the covenant and the church in the biblical narrative.

**April 3** – Ty, David, and Angelo launch the EDIFY series of Live Sessions on Zoom Webinar with 650 attendees. They explore the truth of how we're whole in Christ and yet still growing.

**April 3** – The Light Bearers Community Facebook Group is launched, where over a thousand people have joined for learning, connection, and prayer.

**April 12-13** – Ty preaches a powerful series at the Ooltewah Adventist Church, *Real Love in an AI World*. Attendees discovered the relevance of God's love in the modern age.

# RIPPLES IN FINLAND



David Asscherick, Speaker/Director

None of us saw this one coming. There are ripples, and there are ripples. This was a ripple.

In 2021, two ARISE Australia graduates, Braeden and Levi, moved to Finland because their wives, who also attended ARISE, were from Finland.

ARISE, our discipleship training program which has now empowered over 4,000 people to love and share the gospel story, had a profound and transformative impact on the four

**They wanted other people to experience what they experienced.**

of them. To the point that, after they attended ARISE, they began dreaming about starting an ARISE

program in Finland. They wanted other people to experience what they experienced. So they prayed, talked, dreamed, plotted, and shared their vision with locals. Providence after providence began lining up.

Then, one day, Levi and Braeden reached out to Ty and me to share the vision, the plan, and the manifold providence of God. What a glorious

revelation that was! Immediately, our team saw the hand of God all over the situation.

Could we really start a new ARISE program in Europe? Could we afford it? Could we staff it? Could we really pull this off?

The obvious answer was no.

But the Spirit's answer was yes. Given the way that God was leading, *how could we not?* Mission-minded donors stepped up, hearts were moved, walls were painted, arrangements were made, and—just like that!—ARISE Finland, almost like Creation of old in Genesis 1, suddenly existed! And all because of the astounding will and power of God, the passion of four of His young children, and the generosity of people like you.

Presently, there are 38 young people, from 12 countries, enrolled at ARISE Finland.

Friends, that's a RIPPLE! And it would've never been possible without you.

**April 16-27** – Ty preaches at Australia Big Camp about the intrinsic value of human beings, exploring how no person can be replaced by technology.

**April 27-May 13** – Angelo teaches our ARISE Australia class the importance of community in discipleship and how to build healthy communities in our churches.

**April 28-May 3** – Ty teaches classes on the book of Revelation and covenant community with ARISE Australia students.

**May 3** – Light Bearers Español is launched, consisting of a website entirely in Spanish, plus a Facebook page and Instagram account. The library of resources, Bible studies, and sermons grows.

**May 11** – The eleventh ARISE Australia class graduates and is sent out to make disciples and share the gospel story wherever God leads them.

**May 16** – In the second Live Session, part two of the EDIFY series, Ty, David, and Angelo have an honest conversation about re-setting our lives and growing through challenges and hardship.



**83**

In this year's first-ever ARISE Finland class and our eleventh ARISE Australia class, we had 83 total students, ages 18 to 61 representing 19 countries.

To date, we've trained and disciplined over 4,000 people through our collective ARISE discipleship programs.



**May 30-31** – Angelo preaches at the Georgia Cumberland Conference Camp Meeting about the importance of being lovingly attached to Jesus.

**June 4** – In part 3 of the EDIFY Live Session series, Ty, David, and Angelo grapple with the “God questions.” *Does God exist? If so, how can I know Him for myself?*

**June 18-22** – Ty preaches at the Upper Columbia Conference Camp Meeting on how God’s love heals us and what it looks like for the church to be a righteousness by faith community.



“Going to ARISE was the best decision I have ever made. It was life-changing and transformed my view of God.”

—JUSTIN CHUNG

## Find your place in God’s Story

**ARISE Australia**  
**February 3-May 5, 2025**

Application deadline: December 31, 2024



Scan the code or go to [lightbearers.org/arise/australia](https://lightbearers.org/arise/australia) to learn more and apply.

**ARISE Finland**  
**August 14-November 8, 2025**

Opens for applications January 1, 2025  
Application deadline: July 31, 2025



Scan the code or go to [lightbearers.org/arise/finland](https://lightbearers.org/arise/finland) to learn more and apply.

At our three-month ARISE discipleship programs, you’ll fall in love with God, explore the biblical narrative, learn from gospel-oriented teachers, serve in community, and form long-lasting friendships. Class sizes are limited. Don’t wait to apply.

**June 22-23** – David speaks at the Try This At Home marriage seminar in Dover, Delaware, painting a picture of gospel-centered marriages.

**June 24-28** – Ty speaks at the Southern New England Camp Meeting to an excited crowd about the essence of the gospel, how it changes our relationships, and how it changes us.

**July 3** – In part four of the EDIFY Live Session series, Ty, David, and Angelo discuss love as a motivating power and how it is the only force that creates lasting change.

# RIPPLES ONLINE



Angelo Grasso, Spiritual Care Director

Community is the signature of God's creation. We were conceived in community and we find our ultimate purpose in community.

Satan knows this and is committed to perfecting schemes and systems to keep us in the darkness of isolation. Because he hates creation, he hates community. His mission is to

## In 2024 we leaned into community like never before.

take us back to the conditions of pre-creation—formless, void, and alone! And in far too many cases, he succeeds.

At Light Bearers, we realize that to vindicate the beauty of God's character necessitates waging war against the machinery of isolationism, which is now perfected into a dark art through modern technology. In 2024, we leaned into community like never before. We invested in our online community by launching a series of live sessions called "EDIFY." Nearly 3,000 people registered and found community through our shared conversations, while, to date, the series has over 60,000 views.

We offered spiritual care to our community in the form of pastoral support through prayer and biblical counsel. We connected with our community on social media through our Facebook group and our other social media channels. And we showed up in real life, too. Our team invested in community by traveling the world to spend time with our global family in conferences and retreats, large and small. Through our ARISE training school, we immersed students in the art of community-building and deployed them into the mission field as light bearers.

So, on behalf of our Light Bearers community, thank you. Thank you for supporting this good fight. It is because of your financial support that we have been able to create an infrastructure that is supporting our growing community, undermining the devil's designs, and creating a ripple of connection, hope, and restoration that is spreading around the world.

 2,850

This year, we had 2,850 people register for our monthly Live Sessions and 1,170 people currently belong to our Light Bearers Community Facebook Group.



**July 19-21** – Angelo preaches about the rhythms of rest, repentance, and joy to hundreds of young adults in Houston, Texas.

**July 20-27** – Ty preaches on righteousness by faith at the Poland Camp Meeting to a group of approximately one thousand eager and enthusiastic people.

**July 28-July 31** – Ty preaches on the gospel and righteousness by faith for pastors and their families at the Mid-America Union pastors meetings.

**July 31-August 3** – Ty and the team are at ASI, networking with attendees and connecting with mission organizations who distribute Light Bearers literature.

**August 7** – In the fifth EDIFY Live Session, Ty and Angelo explore how the gospel can help us identify unhelpful forms of thinking and stop self-sabotaging.

**August 22** – The first-ever ARISE Finland class begins with 38 students from 12 countries.

# BE PART OF THE LIGHT BEARERS COMMUNITY

Join our Light Bearers Community Facebook Group for learning, connection, and prayer.



SCAN THE CODE OR GO TO [FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/LIGHTBEARERSCOMMUNITY](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lightbearerscommunity) TO JOIN.

**August 22-September 8** – Ty teaches for the first ARISE Finland class, exploring why narrative theology is critical to our growth as disciples.

**September 4** – Ty, David, and Angelo, in the sixth EDIFY Live Session hold an ask-us-anything Q&A, where they respond to questions from the Light Bearers community.

**September 6-12** – David preaches the good news of God’s love at a weekend youth rally, followed by five days of pastoral meetings.

**September 16-22** – Ty preaches a Week of Prayer at Andrews University for the students and local community, grounding them in the gospel.

**September 18-October 9** – David teaches at ARISE Finland, sharing with students how they can practically exemplify the gospel in evangelism and much more.

**September 20-21** – Angelo speaks for the Southern Adventist University Counseling Colloquium on the theme, “Transformed by the Journey.”





# RIPPLES IN ESPAÑOL



Alexandra Mora, Español Coordinator

Did you know that Spanish is the second-largest mother tongue in the world?

Light Bearers has always made it a priority to send Bibles and Bible study guides in local languages overseas. However, we've never had the means to provide our numerous other resources—sermon series from convocation, books like *The Sonship of Christ*, and blog posts—in other languages, though they were frequently requested.

**“Wow! Every message makes my mind explode and expand. I can't wait for the next one.”**

That is, until this year.

With your generous support, the puzzle pieces finally came together, and we launched Light Bearers Español this past June.

This includes a website, where you can find our first video series, *Unbelievable* (*Increíble* in Spanish), as well as other resources. We also created a YouTube channel, an Instagram account, and a Facebook page—all completely in Spanish. Using the latest AI technology, we're translating more Bible studies, media resources, and sermons, creating an ever-growing library in Español.

Since we've launched, our Spanish community has been expressing their excitement and gratitude:

*“So many prayers answered! Thank you, friends, for making everything that Light Bearers represents available in Spanish.”* – Mariano

*“I always listened to you in English, and there were things I didn't understand. Thank you for doing it in Spanish!”* – Josafat

*“Wow! Every message makes my mind explode and expand. I can't wait for the next one.”* – Dilner

*“This is the absolutely beautiful message of the eternal Gospel. Simply spectacular. Thank you so much, Light Bearers. Keep sharing these resources.”* – Kenni

None of this would have happened without you. We want to thank you and ask you to pray for this project and consider how you can continue supporting it. There are 493 million native Spanish speakers worldwide—that's over six percent of the world's population. May God use us to vindicate the beauty of His character in Spanish!



Scan the code to learn more about Light Bearers Español and connect with us on social.



**September 29–October 2** – Ty speaks at RISE, the Southern Union Pastors Convention, painting a gospel-centered vision for ministry.

**October 9** – In the seventh EDIFY Live Session, Angelo, David, and Ty have a thoughtful conversation on navigating toxic cultures with the gospel.

**October 11–13** – Ty speaks at Southern Adventist University for the Creation Is Crucial Conference. He shares how our view of creation impacts our view of God's character.

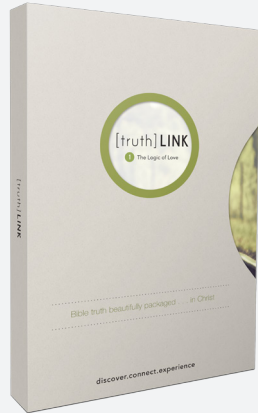
**October 17–November 4** – Ty and David serve as co-guides for the Following in the Apostles Footsteps Tour of Greece, sharing theological insights and devotionals.

**October 22–31** – Jeffrey and Angelo teach at ARISE Finland about how to study the Bible, the judgment, and how to build gospel-centered communities in our churches.

**November 6** – In our eighth EDIFY Live Session, Ty, David, and Angelo discuss the vital ingredients needed for creating a good sandwich. They also explore the similar ingredients needed to make a good life.

# RIPPLE-MAKING RESOURCES

Find these titles and more at [lightbearers.org/resources](http://lightbearers.org/resources).



## Truth Link

Truth isn't merely a list of abstract ideas or facts. Rather, truth is an embodied reality found in Jesus. Truth Link is a series of 27 Bible studies designed to help you experience God's love in Jesus.



**\$10** – To order, scan the code or go to [lightbearers.org/resources](http://lightbearers.org/resources).

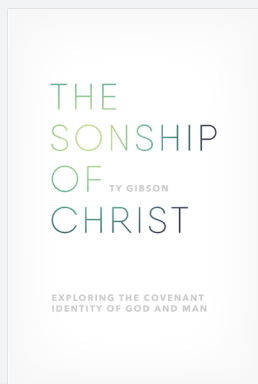


## Closer Than Angels

Closer Than Angels is a simple but profound study of God's love for humanity. This short read will fill your heart with humble adoration for your Maker and strengthen your will against the enemy's attacks.



**\$5** – To order, scan the code or go to [lightbearers.org/resources](http://lightbearers.org/resources).

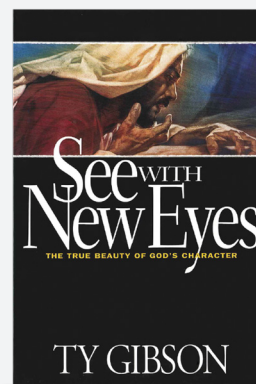


## The Sonship of Christ

Why is Christ called both "God" and the "Son of God" in Scripture? In The Sonship of Christ, you'll discover a whole new theological lens through which to interpret the Trinity versus anti-Trinitarian debate.



**\$12** – To order, scan the code or go to [lightbearers.org/resources](http://lightbearers.org/resources).



## See With New Eyes

See With New Eyes is about God. It's not about people or religions that claim to represent God, but about God Himself. As you read, you'll get a fresh revelation of the one true portrait of His character—Jesus Christ.



**\$14** – To order, scan the code or go to [lightbearers.org/resources](http://lightbearers.org/resources).

**November 9-10** – David speaks for the Try This At Home marriage seminar in Templeton Hills, California, sharing practical wisdom and insights.

**November 16** – ARISE Finland graduates its first class, deploying 38 beautiful disciples to share the gospel.

**November 16-17** – David speaks at the Try This At Home marriage seminar in Medford, Oregon, sharing gospel-centered relationship principles.

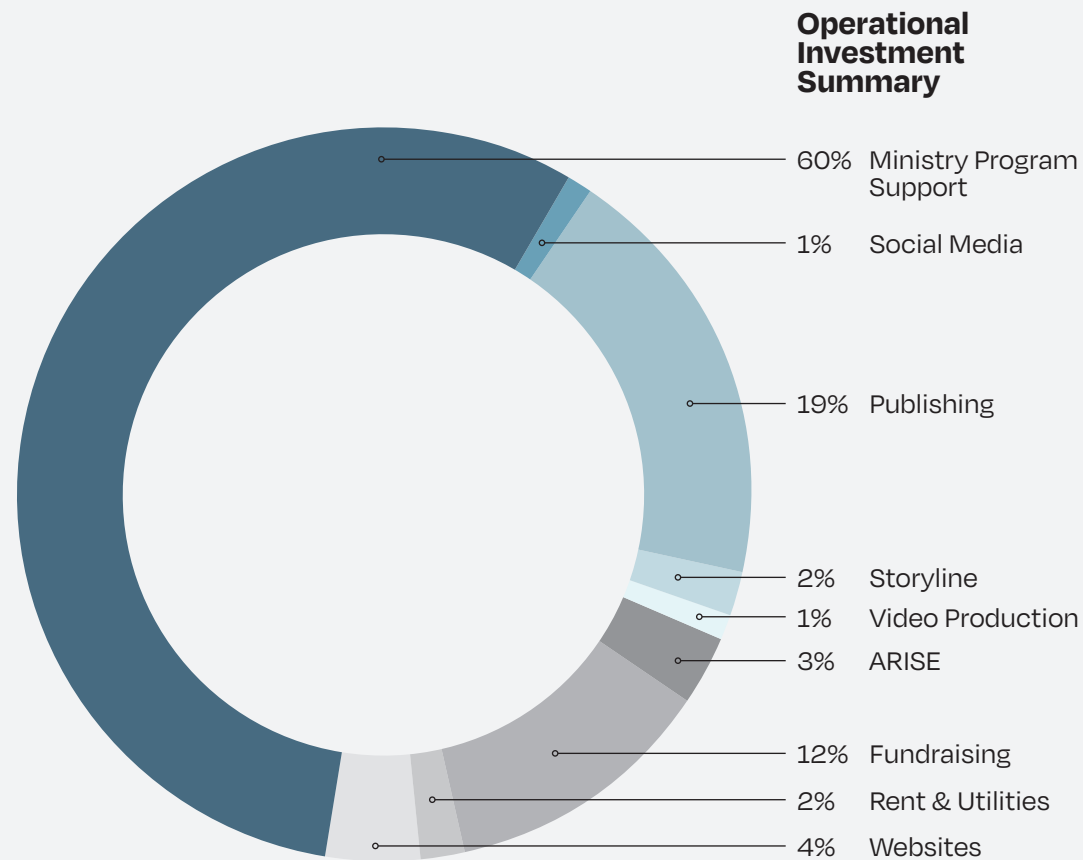
**November 17-23** – Ty speaks at Bogenhofen University, sharing the message of righteousness by faith and its power to impact the church.

**December 4** – In the ninth and final Live Session of the EDIFY series, Ty, David, and Angelo talk about how God throws a party and His desire for us to engage in radical hospitality.

**December 6-7** – David preaches at a Central California Conference youth event, sharing righteousness by faith with dozens of teenagers.

# ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Every gift is put to maximum use with the highest standards of financial integrity.



Your generosity allows us to do everything we do. We're so grateful for a community of givers and prayer intercessors who undergird everything we do.



## Maximize Your Giving

Support Light Bearers and enjoy tax benefits

### New IRA Rule

You do not have to make a required minimum distribution before age 73. However, if you are 70½ years old, you can make a gift to Light Bearers from your IRA without paying income taxes on the distribution.

### New Opportunity: IRA to Charitable Gift Annuity

At 70½, you can make a one-time distribution from an IRA directly to a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). CGAs provide a fixed lifetime income.

### Appreciated Assets

Consider making an outright gift to Light Bearers using appreciated assets instead of cash. You can realize tax savings on income and capital gains when using stock or real estate.

For more information, please contact us at [donations@lightbearers.org](mailto:donations@lightbearers.org) or by calling 877-585-1111.

### Bequests

Consider remembering Light Bearers in your will or trust.

# LET'S MAKE WAVES

Well, there you have it. As I said before, these stories are not mere updates. They are the ripple effects of your compassionate support. There is a direct correlation between your giving and Maria in Nicaragua receiving a Bible at a critical moment and Braeden and Levi spearheading a new ARISE program in Europe.

We're aware that there are innumerable causes to which you could give your support. So on behalf of our team, and with deep gratitude, I want to say thank you for your partnership. Thank you for changing the universe a little with us this year.

**Thank you for changing the universe a little with us this year.**

We hope these reflections on 2024 also inspire you as you ponder the future. There is much more gospel work to do, both in Western and developing countries. There is a mass exodus of young adults deconverting and leaving the church. Religion as usual is no longer sufficient. There are people in Africa who fearfully beg a buffet of pantheistic deities for absolution while offering sacrifices. There are

nominal believers for whom occasional church attendance is merely a ticket out of the bad place.

The one commonality among them is that they don't understand the faithful, other-centered love of God. That vital truth is the linchpin of spiritual, emotional, and relational health.

We aim to share that glorious message with them, to vindicate the beauty of God's character. That's why, next year, we're sending seven containers of gospel literature to Central America, Africa, and beyond. We'll empower young adults at more ARISE Intensives and at ARISE Australia and Finland. We'll put Light Bearers Español on the map by creating an ever-growing library of Spanish resources.

However, we cannot do this without your continued financial support. You're unique, irreplaceable. Therefore, each choice you make sets in motion an unrepeatable chain of dominoes in the universe. Those ripples have the potential to become waves and make 2025 look completely different than it would otherwise.

So, I want to invite you to throw another pebble in. Create more ripples with us by giving a special year-end gift at [lightbearers.org/give](https://lightbearers.org/give), by scanning the code, or by using the response device enclosed.

In Christ,



Ty Gibson  
Speaker/Director



## Journey through Scripture, encounter Jesus, and connect in community

Ty Gibson



Jeffrey Rosario



David Asscherick



Mark your calendars for the 2025 Light Bearers Convocation.

**June 18-21, 2025**  
**Eugene, Oregon**