

. . . The Sundering of God, *continued from p. 1*

incarnation and death. The whole Godhead endured the severing trauma of the cross. Paul says that, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19, NKJV). "God Himself was crucified with Christ; for Christ was one with the Father" (*Signs of the Times*, Mar. 26, 1894). "The omnipotent God suffered with His Son" (*The Upward Look*, p. 223).

Centuries before Christ came as the incarnate God to our world, the prophet Daniel was shown that "Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself" (Daniel 9:26, NKJV). The term "cut off" has its origin in the vision of Abraham, in which the animal sacrifices were cut in two, indicating that one member of the Godhead would be "cut off" from the others. It is of massive significance that Daniel hastens to add, "But not for Himself."

The Holy Spirit who inspired the prophet to pen these words wants us to ask, "Then for whom was Messiah cut off?" For whom did He endure such infinite anguish? And the Holy Spirit wants the answer to ring with clarity in your heart and mine: For me! God did this for me!

. . . Life @ Light Bearers, *continued from p. 3*

engagements. And Amber handles our monthly mail-out along with just about any task we might want to assign her, which is one reason we've got to get her to move to Oregon.

Of course there is much more happening on any given day. You might be invited to help load a container of literature with a group of the students from Laurelwood Academy, located just across the street. Or if you are here on the second or fourth Tuesday you could stay for an evening Bible study with Ty. If you're real quiet, you could even sit in on the Bible-4 class I teach the seniors at Laurelwood. They would love to have a visitor in the class, but beware—it starts at 7:20 am.

So that's a basic overview of a day at LBM. From early morning to late night the team here is actively engaged in the work of ministry. Oh, I nearly forgot, this team is a smaller unit of a bigger team—the support team—which includes you. In reality it is the positive response to God's love in your lives, your early hours and late nights, your burden bearing, get-the-job-done, responsibility-carrying, faithful-to-duty, love-for-God spirit that keeps us going. Your prayers, support and encouraging correspondence—the life-changing power of the gospel active in you—urges us on week-by-week, month-by-month and year-by-year. We praise God for His grace that works in you mightily. We are so thankful to team with you for the work of taking the gospel to all the world. And with you we say Maranatha! Amen.

MARCH 2009

Events Schedule

- **March 1-5**
Ty Gibson
Riverside Farm Institute, Lusaka, Zambia
email rfi@zamnet.zm
- **March 6-14**
James Rafferty
Pioneer Memorial SDA Church
Tamparuli, Malaysia
ph (088)782346, email gabunasco@yahoo.com
- **March 15-22**
James Rafferty
Mt. Akagi Institute, Japan
email kuroitsu@gmail.com
- **April 9-12**
Ty Gibson
ACTS Youth Conference, Edmonton, AB Canada
ph (248)840-9294
- **April 10-18**
James Rafferty
Mount Shasta SDA Church, CA
ph (530)926-3348 website mountshastasda.com
- **April 24-25**
Ty Gibson
Tacoma Central SDA Church, WA
ph (253)752-6637
- **April 30–May 2**
James Rafferty
Northwest ASI Convention, Redmond, OR
email danross@integrity.com
- **May 8-9**
James Rafferty
Redmond SDA Church, OR
ph (541)923-0301
- **May 16**
James Rafferty
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR
ph (541)942-5213

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*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in beautiful Oregon State.
Our purpose is to help proclaim the gospel
of our Lord Jesus Christ through the spoken and published word.*

MISSION UPDATE

The Newsletter of Light Bearers Ministry



The Sundering of God

By Ty Gibson

By far the most astounding and profound truth of the Bible is the severing undergone by the Godhead for love of the fallen human race.

Early on in salvation history, God revealed in a dream to Abraham the horrific suffering the Trinity would have to experience in order to save humanity (see Genesis 15). This ancient father of our faith was told by the Lord to sever "down the middle" certain sacrificial animals and place the pieces across from one another to form a path between them. As the torn-apart animals lay upon the ground at sundown, a sense of "horror and great darkness fell upon" the mind of Abraham. God then told him that his descendants would become enslaved, but finally be delivered. At this point the presence of God walked the path between the animal halves as Abraham watched and wondered.

The severed sacrifices strewn on the ground signified the means by which

the Israelites would be liberated, and ultimately foreshadowed the means by which salvation would be accomplished for the whole human race. The Godhead itself would suffer the severing of the divine fellowship that had been their beautiful reality for all eternal ages past. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit would painfully but voluntarily separate from their intimate union with God the Son, and the Son would painfully but voluntarily submit Himself to be sundered from the loving union He had always enjoyed with the Father and the Spirit. This is the path God would traverse to save mankind—to save you and me.

The psychological horror and darkness that came upon Abraham pointed forward to the far more horrific mental suffering and bleakness that came upon Christ in Gethsemane, increasing in intensity as he hung upon the cross. The heart-wrenching cry in the Garden, "My soul [psyche in the Greek] is exceedingly sorrowful,

even to death," and then the desperate question at Calvary, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 26:38; 27:46, NKJV), reveals how much God gave up for us. The magnitude of the sacrifice made for our healing is more than we can ever fully grasp, although we can grasp it enough to break our hard hearts. What we have before us in Christ is the mind-staggering reality that Jesus left the fellowship of the Father and the Spirit to become eternally one in nature with the human race, and to endure the full guilt of our sin and the separation from God it imposes. Jesus felt to the inmost depths of His being the sense of eternal separation sin ultimately makes between God and sinners, and the Father as well as the Holy Spirit felt the separation just as acutely as the Son. The pain was equal to the intensity of their love for one another.

Abraham's vision persuades us that Jesus was not the only member of the Godhead that suffered in His

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Behold Him in the wilderness, in Gethsemane, upon the cross! The spotless Son of God took upon Himself the burden of sin. He who had been one with God, felt in His soul, the awful separation that sin makes between God and man. This forced from the lips the anguished cry, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" It was the burden of sin, the sense of its terrible enormity, of its separation of the soul from God,—it was this that broke the heart of the Son of God.

Ellen G. White,
Bible Training School,
March 1, 1908

Said the angel, "Think ye that the Father yielded up His dearly beloved Son without a struggle? No, no." It was even a struggle with the God of heaven, whether to let guilty man perish, or to give His darling Son to die for them. Angels were so interested for man's salvation that there could be found among them those who would yield their glory and give their life for perishing man. "But," said my accompanying angel, "that would avail nothing." The transgression was so great that an angel's life would not pay the debt. Nothing but the death and intercession of God's Son would pay the debt and save lost man from hopeless sorrow and misery.

Ellen G. White,
Early Writings, p. 127

In the scenes that transpired at the judgment hall, and at Calvary, we see what the human heart is capable of when under

the influence of Satan. Christ submitted to crucifixion, although the heavenly host could have delivered him. The angels suffered with Christ. God himself was crucified with Christ; for Christ was one with the Father.

Ellen G. White,
Signs of the Times,
March 26, 1894

Human nature can endure but a limited amount of test and trial. The finite can only endure the finite measure, and human nature succumbs; but the nature of Christ had a greater capacity for suffering; for the human existed in the divine nature, and created a capacity for suffering to endure that which resulted from the sins of a lost world. The agony which Christ endured, broadens, deepens, and gives a more extended conception of the character of sin, and the character of the retribution which God will bring upon those who continue in sin.

Ellen G. White,
SDA Bible Commentary,
vol. 5, p. 1103

The righteous One must suffer the condemnation and wrath of God, not in vindictiveness; for the heart of God yearned with greatest sorrow when His Son, guiltless, was suffering the penalty of sin. This sundering of the divine powers will never again occur throughout the eternal ages.

Ellen G. White,
SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7,
p. 924

@ LIFE LIGHT BEARERS



By James Rafferty

Last month we introduced you to the staff of Light Bearers Ministry (LBM)—Stephanie VKH, Meranda, Joshua, Brent, Stephanie E., Cindi, Jason, Robert, Don, Risë, Sue and Amber. This month we would like to share a snapshot of an ordinary day at LBM.

If you're an early bird, and arrived at 7:15 am, the first person you would see is Cindi, LBM's Resource Center manager, opening up, getting the lights on preparing the store for a day of walk-in customers as well as phone and email orders.

Robert and Joshua usually arrive about 15 minutes later. Robert helps shape the daily schedule for the various tasks to be accomplished by Joshua, Brent and Jason. Joshua would likely be warming up the press by 8:00 am and the movement of thousands of pounds of paper would begin to fill the morning air. By 9:00 am they would be fully engaged in printing,

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folding, stacking, boxing, labeling and organizing millions of gospel-filled tracts destined to enlighten the earth with the glory of God.

Back in the office Stephanie, our full-time Administrative Secretary, is busy with emails, phone calls, literature and seminar requests (in addition to organizing our monthly newsletter, Administrative Committee meetings, yearly convocation, board meetings, etc.). By mid-morning Meranda is in the office to assist Stephanie by taking phone calls, updating the mailing list and taking on a variety of tasks that might present themselves.

If you were to visit LBM on a Wednesday, all this business would be interrupted by a morning devotional staff meeting. One by one we read through prayer requests we receive via the web, email, phone and our monthly response slip (as well as by word of mouth). Then we pray. Ty and James also update the staff on their latest seminars and God's blessings.

There are days when your visit might discover that Ty and James are nowhere to be found. This is because we are likely traveling, perhaps overseas, or taking a day off after a weekend seminar. We may be involved in local Bible teaching or catching up on some necessary tasks that have fallen behind due to travel. If we were in the office during your visit we would likely be catching up with emails, phone calls, preparing messages or reconnecting with the LBM team.

By early afternoon Stephanie E. has arrived to assist with the phones, secretarial and other duties. Between Stephanie VKH, Meranda, and Stephanie E. there is rarely an idle moment, but if they can find any, Sue is happy to fill them with pressing assignments and responsibilities. By mid-morning you will likely hear Sue's happy laugh throughout the office (unless she is traveling with Ty), connecting, assigning and answering questions that only Sue can. Sue is to the office what Robert is to the

publishing house, the behind-the-scenes steady, load-bearing, get-the-job-done-even-if-it-takes-all-night person. That means that you will often see the light on in Sue's office (as well as in Robert's) after everyone else has left for home.

Then there are some part-time team members that you will rarely see at the office itself—Jasper, Don, Risë and Amber. This is because their work for LBM is primarily done from their homes. While Jasper keeps our website and computers current and edits all our audio messages, along with taking care of most of our other Information Technology (IT) needs, he does visit us every year during convocation to run the sound system and lend his easygoing presence to our office atmosphere.

Don works with Sue to keep our finances in order and LBM's budget on target, besides chairing the board of LBM. Risë writes our monthly health nugget, various health tracts and handles limited speaking