

. . . Big Plan, *continued from p. 3*

We would like you to help us with an evangelistic meeting at end of next year (2010). By that time we will be able to see the relative success of the program. Thank you for praying with us and for your willingness to help reach Africa.

Meiring”

A few days later he sent this report:

“Hello Ty!

Just want to give you some reports: Friday and Enoch, two of our Pioneers (Bible Workers) have caught on to the idea of creating Bible Study Centers. After you guys had left they came for more lessons and gave me this encouraging report. Friday started six centers and Enoch seven. Together they have more than 4,000 students enrolled. And that was in a period of three months. What a blessing!

I met a guy from Zimbabwe that wanted some Bibles from me to distribute in Lodges in Livingstone. The Holy Spirit spoke to me and I asked him if he would be interested in being a trainer in Livingstone in the use of Bible lessons. He was very excited and he is coming for training to Riverside. He will go back and train all the churches in Livingstone. We need this kind of person in every town. God will answer our prayers.

Meiring”

I responded with a commitment to the project from LBM. He wrote:
“Hi Ty,

Thank you for the commitment. You have done more than you think for us here in Zambia and across the borders.

The container you sent us in April is nearly finished. God is using these lessons powerfully to reach many areas. I am now pushing it into the unentered areas of the West and Northwest Zambia.

Here is our method: “In Christ’s act of supplying the temporal necessities of a hungry multitude is wrapped up a deep spiritual lesson for all His workers. Christ received from the Father; He imparted to the disciples; they imparted to the multitude; and the people to one another. So all who are united to Christ will receive from Him the bread of life, the heavenly food, and impart it to others” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 369).

In these last two sentences I find the strategy that we should use. God, through Christ, will give through LBM to us, and we must give to the multitudes in Africa. Then the multitudes will share it also with others. God will multiply it. The promise of this story is that God can feed the multitude and have leftovers!

Sorry, this was a bit of a mouthful. But time is short and we cannot wait any longer. We must move as quickly as we can as not to give Satan a chance to steal a march on us.

Meiring”

DECEMBER 2009

Events Schedule

- **December 5**
Turning Point Community Adventist Company,
Roseburg, OR
James Rafferty • (541)492-1300
- **December 8**
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
Ty Gibson • (541)988-3300
- **December 12**
Cottage Grove SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)942-5213
- **January 8-9**
Bend SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)382-5991
- **January 9-30**
Tacoma Central SDA Church, WA
Ty Gibson • (253)752-6637
- **February 6**
Junction City SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty • (541)998-5914
- **February 9**
Bible Study, Light Bearers Ministry
Ty Gibson • (541)746-1750
- **February 12-13**
Pasco Riverside SDA Church, WA
James Rafferty • (509)547-4998
- **February 12-13**
Laurelwood Academy, OR
Ty Gibson • (541)726-2435
- **February 19-20**
Pasco Riverside SDA Church, WA
Ty Gibson • (509)547-4998

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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



Servants and Friends

By James Rafferty

In the Bible God calls believers both “servants” and “friends.”¹

In fact, every author of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul and Peter, James, and even Jude describes believers as “servants” of God.² And Jesus, on one significant occasion just before His death, clearly calls us friends:

“Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:15).

Friends are closer than servants, being in intimate association. Friends are also in a position to inflict greater pain than a servant if they turn from their friendship as seen in the experiences of Peter and Judas (Matthew 26:34, 50).

Servants, on the other hand, are bound to obedience by the very

position they occupy—they are expected to be loyal to their masters. Yet servants may never enter into so close a loving relationship with their masters due to the authoritarian position of the master over the servant.

The words of Christ in John 15:15 declare that we are both servants and friends of God in a unique blending of these two experiences. The context of John 15:15 clearly reveals that this servant-hood to God is swallowed up by friendship, the one becoming blended with the other. True friendship flows out of our willingness to serve and do whatever God commands us to do as seen in the immediate context of the verse:

“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14).

God calls us His friends not because we are no longer servants,

but rather because our servant-hood to Christ is no longer motivated by Christ’s authority over us. His relentless love calls forth our desire to serve Him (2 Corinthians 5:14). The changeless love and faithfulness of Jesus has captivated our entire beings so that we now realize that He is our Truest and Best Friend. Our servant-hood to Christ now moves to its proper place as the entire surrender of everything we have to the unfailing friendship of our Lord and Savior. The love of Christ makes us friends and servants, loyal and true, obedient and intimate with the One who has loved us like no other. Amen.

1. Joshua 1:1; Revelation 1:1; Exodus 33:11; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23.
2. Matthew 20:27; Mark 10:44; Acts 4:29; Romans 1:1; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1; Revelation 1:1.

A longer and more complete article is available on our website. Be sure and check it out!

DECEMBER 2009

CONSIDER THIS . . .

Those who live in close fellowship with Christ will be promoted by Him to positions of trust. The servant who does the best he can for his Master is admitted to familiar intercourse with the One whose commands he loves to obey. In the faithful discharge of duty we may become one with Christ, for those who are obeying God's commands may speak to Him freely. The one who talks most familiarly with his divine leader has the most exalted conception of His greatness and is the most obedient to His commands.

Ellen G. White,
That I May Know Him, p. 296.

You have the pattern, Christ Jesus; walk in his footsteps, and you will be qualified to fill any and every position that you may be called upon to occupy. You will be 'rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.' You are not to feel that you are a bond slave, but a son of God; that you are highly favored in that you have been regarded of so great value that God has made you his by paying an infinite ransom for your freedom. Jesus says, 'I call you not servants . . . but I have called you friends.' When you appreciate his wondrous love, love and gratitude will be in your heart as a wellspring of joy.

Ellen G. White,
The Youth's Instructor,
May 17, 1894

All that was communicated to Him by His Father, Christ makes known to His followers. 'Henceforth I call you not servants'; He says, 'for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you' (John 15:15). How was this done? By words merely? No; by character; by the daily life. It was thus that Christ represented His Father. My brethren and sisters, let us make it known that we are branches of the living vine in that we represent the character of Christ. By a life of fruitbearing we are to make known the truth of the Word. You may profess a religion that is as high as the heavens; but unless you do the commandments of God, you are certainly not recommending the love of Christ to the world.

Ellen G. White,
Sermons and Talks,
Vol. 1, p. 401

The religion of Jesus Christ is not merely to prepare us for the future immortal life; it is to enable us to live the Christ life here on earth. Jesus is not only our pattern, He is also our friend and our guide, and by taking hold of His strong arm and partaking of His Spirit, we may walk 'even as he walked.'

Ellen G. White,
That I May Know Him, p. 298

BIG PLAN: LUSAKA 2010

By Ty Gibson



As 2009 closes and 2010 opens before us, an army of Bible workers is being trained and dispatched in the Zambian city of Lusaka. This is in preparation for a citywide evangelistic series James and I will conduct in October 2010 as a joint effort of the Central Zambia Conference, Riverside Farm Institute and Light Bearers.

The plan involves three phases:

1. Light Bearers will send up to twelve containers of Bible lessons. One million sets is the goal.
2. Multiple teams of Bible Workers will be trained and mobilized door-to-door to acquire students. This is currently underway.
3. In October, James and I will preach a three-week series of reaping meetings.

Meiring Pretorius, of Riverside Farm, is the able organizer of the

What is the possibility of getting one million sets of Bible lessons from LBM for this project?

project. I want you, as our partners in faith, to get a clear sense of what this project involves and the large vision of the brother who is organizing the project, not to mention his enthusiasm. Here are a few pieces of correspondence from Meiring.

After my visit to Africa in March Meiring wrote:
"Hi Ty!

What a blessing it was to have you guys here!! Thank you for taking the time to come and see what we are doing here in Africa. God is working powerfully through Light Bearers Ministry (LBM) as a channel to reach Africa.

We spoke briefly about a city project for Lusaka. I have worked out a strategic plan to reach at least one million people with the Bible lessons from LBM. I know it is possible through God's grace.

The plan involves:

1. Training each church in Lusaka in the use of the Bible lessons.
2. Setting up distribution centers all

over Lusaka.

3. An evangelistic series at the end of the cycle, about October 2010.
4. We want the rural churches in smaller towns and villages to adopt this plan so that within three years we can reach all of Zambia.
5. To extend and promote this method in other African countries.

What is the possibility of getting one million sets of Bible lessons from LBM for this project, and later more literature for extending into other countries? This means at least one container every month for the next three years!

Meiring"

Realizing the magnitude of the plan this brother was suggesting, I responded:
"Meiring,

Great to hear from you! I had such a wonderful time getting to know you and Juanita.

This is a very ambitious plan, and I love it.

When would the containers need to start coming to you?

One every month for three years is a big challenge. Last year we did a total of 12 for the year. This year there are currently 22 projects we have committed to. It costs us about \$50,000 per container. We are eager to supply the literature need for this project. We just need to raise the money.

Ty"

Just as I had expected, he responded with undeterred confidence:

"Hi Ty,

I know this is a huge challenge, but God is bigger than our challenges. He wants us as His children to test and trust Him, standing on His promise to take the Three Angels messages to every nation. Literature distribution is very effective in Africa. Then my question is: If literature is so much more effective than other methods, why not use it in a more streamlined plan.