

MISSION UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2017

WHAT THE WAR'S ABOUT

BY TY GIBSON

“WAR BROKE OUT IN heaven . . .” (Revelation 12:7).

Satan launched his revolt against God not with bullets and bombs but with subtly spun lies. The Greek word for “war” in the above text is *polemos*, from which we get words like *polemic* and *politics*. *Polemos* is the idea of arguing against an opponent or saying something about a person that has the effect of turning others against him.

In other words, Satan is a politician. God’s character is the focus of his attack. The devil specializes in formulating theological ideas that are calculated to portray God as self-centered, self-exalting, self-serving. Jesus came to our world for the specific purpose of giving a true revelation of God’s character. In His incarnation, life, and death, we encounter the truth about God.

Ellen White gets to the core of the issue like this:

“Unselfishness, the principle of God’s kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God’s principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove

Satan’s claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name. It was to give in His own life an illustration of unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be workers together with Him in demonstrating it in practical life” (Ellen White, *Education*, p. 154).

A comparison of three simple biblical statements tell the whole story:

“God is love” (1 John 4:8).

“Love . . . is not self-seeking” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV).

“He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself” (Hebrews 9:26, NIV).

When the Bible says, “God is love,” it does not mean what pop culture means by its use of the word “love”—a sentimental feeling of attraction to whoever or whatever we find pleasant or beautiful. Rather, it means that God is “not self-seeking.” He is relationally faithful to all others at any cost to Himself. The self-sacrificing death of Jesus on the cross is the irrefutable proof that Satan’s charges against God are false. The war between good and evil, quite simply, is won by love. 



CHANGED AND INSPIRED BY LITERATURE

BY MEIRING PRETORIUS

AS I DROVE INTO the country of Lesotho, I typed into my GPS the address of the Lesotho Conference headquarters and followed the directions into the central part of Maseru, the capital city of Lesotho. *With the GPS it should not be too difficult to locate the building*, I thought to myself. Then I heard the voice of my GPS saying, "Arriving at destination." Looking around, I could not see any conference building. *This is strange*, I thought. Eventually, after driving around looking for the desired building, I decided to ask for directions. To my surprise, people did not know where the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters were (although I later found out the conference building was not far from

where I'd been). I prayed, got into my vehicle, and decided to continue looking for the building in that area. I saw a sign for an Adventist secondary school, turned off, and asked for directions to the conference office. Fortunately, it was on the same premises.

However, even within the secondary school's premises there were no signs for the Lesotho Conference. I saw two gentlemen standing next to the road and stopped again to ask for directions. They pointed to a house which the church had turned into the office for the conference. "There are no signs in Maseru that can direct people to the conference office," I informed them as a last remark before proceeding inside. They gently apologized. Needless to say, I was late for my appointment.

Can you imagine my surprise, though, when one of the two gentlemen whom I asked for directions walked into the building and introduced himself as the conference president? After speaking to him for two hours about the work of Light

Bearers Ministry (LBM) in Lesotho and future plans, he promised me that he would work on getting signs so that the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters are found more easily.

These healers worship the spirits by slaughtering a goat and drinking its blood.

Sadly, this incident reflected the work in Lesotho, and the president admitted to the condition. The everlasting gospel has not been preached as it should be in Lesotho. The work is growing slowly. But in the past year the president has seen a change and the potential for growth through using the Light Bearers material. The Lesotho Conference has baptized a total of 835 people since they received a container of Bible lessons from LBM in 2015. To them, this is a huge blessing and up till now they have only used one quarter of the material. Their plans are to finish the rest of the literature by the end of 2017. Most of the lessons and books are used in public evangelistic meetings, but also in prisons, schools, and door-to-door outreach.

That same day I met Mafeka Mpapa, a 57-year-old businessman who was sponsoring and preaching a public evangelistic series. I visited the humble meeting and he told me his story just before he preached that night.

When he was 25 years old, a Seventh-day Adventist Church member enrolled him in the Voice of Prophecy (VOP) correspondence school. After he finished all the lessons, he decided to follow his Savior, Jesus Christ, and was baptized. He wanted to work in the mines, but God had another plan for him. A friend, who was a building contractor, gave him work so he could save for his studies in business.

Meanwhile, he enrolled his whole family in the Bible correspondence school. Both his mother and brother were drunkards. But by God's grace, each family member accepted Jesus and was baptized. These experiences, and his own, inspired him to use literature as an evangelistic tool.

When the container arrived in 2015, he started conducting evangelistic meetings. If he had no sponsor, he would sponsor the meetings himself. So far he has held 8 series

and baptized 78 souls. Before and during the meetings, he uses LBM Bible lessons.

Two of these souls were former sangomas (traditional healers). These healers worship the spirits by slaughtering a goat and drinking its blood. The spirits don't allow them to wear shoes, and they eat without utensils. They claim to help people with all their problems: spiritual, physical, social, and mental. Their solution for an HIV/AIDS patient is to induce diarrhea. What a miracle that such lives are changed by God's amazing grace! They forsook all to follow another Master, Jesus Christ. All because a businessman consecrated his resources to save souls. He sees that the Bible lessons make his preaching much more clear to his audience.

Lesotho Conference feels that the Bible lessons are making a difference in their country of only 1.8 million people. With the wise use of the literature, all the people in this small country can soon hear the everlasting gospel. 

LESOTHO, THE GOSPEL, AND YOU

Your support makes it possible for countries like Lesotho to hear the gospel. Please consider partnering with us to bring the gospel to these beautiful souls!



SPEAKING SCHEDULE

JANUARY 31-APRIL 4

ARISE Australia
Kingscliff, NSW
David Asscherick
www.ariseaustralia.org

FEBRUARY 7-16

ARISE Australia
Kingscliff, NSW
Ty Gibson
www.ariseaustralia.org

FEBRUARY 17-19

Leadership in the Local Church
Avondale College of Higher Learning
Cooranbong, NSW
Ty Gibson
www.nnsyleadershipweekend.com

APRIL 24-MAY 13

ARISE Australia
Kingscliff, NSW
James Rafferty
www.ariseaustralia.org

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 4

ARISE Express
Wallsend, NSW
Ty Gibson, David Asscherick
www.ariseexpress.com

see more events at lightbearers.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Light Bearers 2017 Convocation will be July 4-8 in Jasper, Oregon.

CHILDREN'S MEETINGS | RV HOOKUPS | CAMPING SPOTS | AND MORE: LIGHTBEARERS.ORG OR 541.988.3333

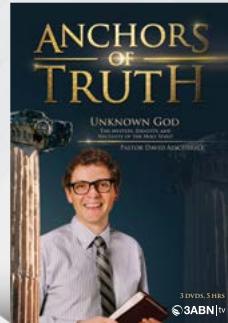
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