

...continued from page 3

saying, 'Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there'" (Revelation 11:1, NKJV).

Here John is given a measuring device and told to measure three things: the temple of God, the altar and those who worship in it. The worshipers represent everyone who professes to believe in God. But what do the temple and the altar represent? According to the Bible, the temple of God is the place where He dwells:

"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament" (Revelation 11:19).

To measure the temple of God is to measure God Himself. In a very real sense, it means to "judge" God (Romans 3:4). He encourages us to measure Him. So, go ahead . . . Measure! Judge! Investigate! Scrutinize! Gather every shred of evidence you can about Him. Upon wide-open scrutiny of all that God is, every misrepresentation of Satan will be revealed.

The "altar" in Revelation 11:1 represents the cross (see Hebrews 13:10-12). For most of the universe, this revelation of God's character of love has already been seen and understood. The inhabitants of heaven and unfallen worlds have seen it and rejoice. They have measured and God has been vindicated. To them Calvary was a clarifying demonstration. God's self-sacrificing love

unmasked the devil as a murderer and a liar from the beginning (John 8:44). Bible prophecy says:

"The accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. . . . Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:10, 12).

The only foothold Satan still has is on this planet. The revelation of Calvary has not yet fully dislodged our sympathy for the Devil. For many of us, the accuser of God still holds great power, but his time is short. This earth is about to be lightened with the glory of God (see Revelation 18:1). Then God's changeless love for the human race, manifested in Christ's sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, will shine as a flood of light upon every nation, tongue and people. All heathen whispers will be silenced by the revelation, and all will be compelled to ultimately testify that God is and ever has been *love*.

\*This is the fifth in a series of articles on the 2300-day prophecy and the investigative judgment.

## Events Schedule

- **March 18-28**  
Peru Evangelism—The Quiet Hour  
Ty Gibson—☎(800)242-2322
- **March 19–April 3**  
Minden, LA Evangelism  
Herb Montgomery—☎(318)371-9572
- **March 22-27**  
SOULS, Orlando, FL  
James & Risë Rafferty—☎(352)408-6044
- **April 17**  
Spirit Lake SDA Church, ID  
James Rafferty—☎(208)683-2998
- **April 19-24**  
SOULS, Orlando, FL  
Herb Montgomery—☎(352)408-6044
- **April 23–May 1**  
OCI Retreat—Fountainview Academy  
Ty Gibson—☎(423)236-5600
- **May 23–June 5**  
Philippines Evangelism  
Ty Gibson
- **June 6-12**  
Barrie SDA Church, Ontario, Canada  
Herb Montgomery—☎(905)775-6013
- **June 17**  
3ABN Live  
James & Risë Rafferty—☎(800)752-3226
- **June 28–July 3**  
East Coast Convocation, Fletcher, NC  
LBM—☎(828)687-5125

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*Light Bearers is a non-profit ministry based in the beautiful northeastern mountains of Washington 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

## A Step of Faith

BY JAMES RAFFERTY

**W**hen I first began in ministry, I sold my hot-rod (a Chevy Camero) and bought a used and abused '74 Subaru for \$750. I was thinking of the gas mileage, which was pretty good—when the car ran. Unfortunately it spent a lot of time with mechanics. I upgraded to a '76 Subaru, but it liked mechanics too. Finally I realized that, to be reliable for ministry, I couldn't afford the downtime. So, with no money, no credible credit, and a co-signer who was in no better financial shape than I was (Ty), I convinced a bank to loan me what I considered a sizable sum back then. Thus began my love of Toyota's as dependable cars that take a licking and keep on ticking. But this update is not about Toyota's or even about cars. It's about presses—printing presses. The story of Light Bearers' printing operation is similar to my car experience in that we

began our major printing ministry with used equipment (Davidson presses that are no longer even manufactured). We did acquire a new Didde later on that proved to be a very dependable workhorse. In fact, we still have it. But as we built our production and quality, we purchased larger presses, also used. We bought them at good prices but lost much in repairs and breakdowns. (We were down for repairs for about three months in 2003).

So, as I decided with my cars, we decided as a ministry to buy a dependable new press. It will increase our production by eliminating downtime and increasing speed and output, while improving the quality of our literature. The cost required a major step in faith, but we believe that God has brought us forward through your generous donations. To date we have received

\$425,317.83 and had in savings \$79,000 (allotted for a press from the 2003 budget), bringing our total to \$504,317.83. We signed the papers the first week of March and made it official. We have officially bought the press. The down payment, approximately 30% of the total, came to \$412,143.39, leaving us about \$92,000 to build on for the next installment due in three to four months. This is the largest single purchase Light Bearers has ever made, but we believe that it will yield much larger harvests for your investment in this ministry.

Thank you for supporting Light Bearers' efforts to print gospel tracts for all the world like the leaves of autumn. The press will take six to seven months to build so we hope to have it here sometime this fall. Between now and then we ask for your continued support and prayers that God will provide the remaining funds.

## LIFT HIM UP

3ABN Schedule (Sky Angel Channel 9710)

Tuesday—4:30 p.m. (PST), 10:30 p.m. (PST)

Thursday—11:00 a.m. (PST)

Saturday—10:30 a.m. (PST)

# COOL QUOTES

I will never be frightened of God anymore. I will never again let myself think of Him as a stern lawgiver who is angry with me because of my sins. I will not view Him as a hard Taskmaster who demands from me impossible tasks. He is not a far-off, unapproachable deity who is wrapped up in His own glory and is indifferent to my sorrows and my fears. All such ideas of God have become impossible to accept now that I know that Christ is the true manifestation of God.

Hannah Whitall Smith,  
*The God of All Comfort*, p. 30

Believe God is always the God you know Him to be when you are nearest to Him. Then think how unnecessary and disrespectful worry is! Let the attitude of your life be a continual willingness to “go out” in dependence upon God, and your life will have a sacred and inexpressible charm about it that is very satisfying to Jesus.

Oswald Chambers  
*My Utmost for His Highest*,  
January 2

We don't know enough about the person to judge him. We don't know enough about his past. We condemn a man for stumbling this morning, but we didn't see the blows he took

yesterday. We judge a woman for the limp in her walk but cannot see the tack in her shoe. We mock the fear in their eyes but have no idea how many stones they have ducked or darts they have dodged. Are they too loud? Perhaps they fear being neglected again. Are they too timid? Perhaps they fear failing again. Too slow? Perhaps they fell the last time they hurried. You don't know. Only one who has followed yesterday's steps can be their judge.

Max Lucado,  
*In the Grip of Grace*, p. 40

“That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” God is now accused by Satan of injustice and indifference, and even of cruelty. Thousands have echoed the charge. But the judgment will declare the righteousness of God. His character, as well as that of man, is on trial. In the judgment every act, both of God and man, that has been done since creation will be seen by all in all its bearings. And when everything is seen in that perfect light, God will be acquitted of all wrongdoing, even by His enemies.

Ellet J Waggoner,  
*Waggoner on Romans*, p. 3.62

## MISSION UPDATE

# HEATHEN WHISPERS

BY JAMES RAFFERTY

“How could God let this happen to someone who was so good and so kind to his neighbors?!”—spoken by a true heathen about a true Christian who recently suffered a debilitating stroke.

In my own recent battle with cancer, I made an interesting discovery about human nature—there is a little bit of heathen in all of us. We naturally want to blame God for the raw deals of life. This natural bent affects unbelievers and believers alike, and that leads us into the next chapter in our study of the judgment.\*

In this context, Paul quotes an interesting passage in the book of Romans that seems to indicate that we live not only in the hour of *our* judgment, but also in the hour of *His* judgment. In other words, God Himself is on trial. Here are Paul's words:

“Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: ‘That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged’” (Romans 3:4, NKJV).

Other Bible versions add weight to this idea. The *American Translation* states, “And win your case when you go to court.” The *New English Bible* says, “And win the verdict when thou art on trial,” and the *Twentieth Century New*

*In my own recent battle with cancer, I made an interesting discovery about human nature—there is a little bit of heathen in all of us.*

*Testament* reads, “and gain Thy cause when men would judge Thee.”

At first glance, I found it hard to swallow that God, the Sovereign Creator of the universe, is somehow on trial. But as I recognize the heathen whispers in all of us, it begins to make more sense. The previous text in Romans is taken from an Old Testament scripture found in Psalm 51:4. Consider King David's words:

“Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest.” (Other versions like the NAS and the NKJ use the word “blameless.”)

David's prayer reflects on a perspective held by many people and can be summarized as follows: “If God were good, He would wish to make His creatures perfectly happy, and if God were almighty, He would be able to do what He wished. But the creatures are not happy. Therefore God lacks either goodness, or power, or both” (Quoted in C.S. Lewis' *The Problem of Pain*, p. 16).

Finger pointing is a crucial element of the sin problem. In the beginning, Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the serpent for hers (see Genesis 3:12-13). Indirectly they were blaming the One who created Eve, the serpent, and the tree. This response was immediate and continues to be a glaring sign of our “fallenness.”

The core of the sin problem goes deep into the very recesses of the heart. Our actions are simply the outward manifestations of what our hearts believe about God. Satan, from the beginning, sought to misrepresent Him, knowing that if our thoughts about God's character could be changed, our actions would follow. Ponder Satan's words in this context:

“Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4-5).

Satan was insinuating that God was withholding something extremely good from us in Eden, implying that He was selfish. In this way, Lucifer tempted us to mistrust God's

character and doubt His love. Having accomplished this, our world was plunged into the darkness of evil.

To counter this evil and rescue our souls, God initiated what the apostle Paul calls His “eternal purpose” (Ephesians 3:11). It is simply an unveiling of His character—the length, breadth, height and depth of His love—for God is love (see Ephesians 3:18-19; 1 John 4:8, 16). A God of love has nothing to hide. Even when we first hid from Him, His changeless love pursued us (see Genesis 3:8-9, Malachi 3:6).

### Measure God

All the finger pointing—“If God were love” or “If I were God”—implicates God in His “hour of judgment.” God responds by giving the world a clear revelation of His character, calling upon all to measure Him. This idea that the judgment also involves the measuring of God's character is found in the symbolic words of Revelation 11:

“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood,