

... Brothers in Christ, continued from page 3

That next week he and I had lunch together, and what a blessing it was. As we both shared our love for Jesus and His people, I was amazed to witness the bond God builds between His children.

My new friend attended as much as he could through the rest of the series. He sat through presentations that were distinctly Adventist. We covered things that I know did not harmonize with Baptist teachings, yet he was congenial and open, a true example of Christian graciousness.

At the start of the last meeting, he asked if he could have just thirty seconds to speak before I began my message. I readily agreed, and his words that last night are etched in my memory:

"I have been a pastor for over thirty years. But I haven't for the last twenty years gone to meetings because I just got burned out on all the garbage that's out there. Yet I found myself attending most every night of these meetings. Tonight I just want to say I'm thankful for three things: The first is good friends (and he pointed to his friend who was our elder) who reached out and invited me here. Second, I'm thankful for a group of people who meet under a different name and on a different day, but whom I've learned are my brothers and sisters in Christ. And third, I want to thank God that, in His infinite wisdom and love, He saw fit to look down and use this young kid from West Virginia to teach this Baptist pastor (who's been ministering for thirty years) new insights into His love and to give me some things to think about. I love you like a brother, man."

I have never been so moved by anyone's response to my meetings as I was to his heartfelt declaration that night. Roger, if you're out there and you happen to be reading this, you truly are my brother in Jesus; you were a tremendous blessing to me as well. And when all else fails, remember, "Give 'em *heaven*, Brother, give 'em *heaven*." I'll see you in the kingdom.

Events Schedule

- **August 3-6**
ASI, Sacramento, CA
- **August 4-6**
SOULS Graduation/Retreat
Herb Montgomery—☎(404)538-9545
- **August 27**
Lewisburg SDA Church, WV
Herb Montgomery—☎(304)392-6151
- **September 9-10**
Singles Retreat, Curriers, NY
James & Risë Rafferty—☎(716)532-1108
- **September 16-24**
Post Falls, ID, Evangelism
James Rafferty—☎(208)687-0066
- **September 16–October 8**
Wenatchee, WA, Evangelism
Ty Gibson—☎(509)663-4032
- **October 6-29**
West Virginia, Evangelism
Herb Montgomery—☎(304)659-3976
- **October 8**
Deer Park SDA Church, WA
James Rafferty—☎(509)276-6097
- **October 14-16**
Montana Conference Women's Retreat
Risë Rafferty—☎(406)587-3101
- **October 28-30**
Redmond SDA Church, OR
James Rafferty—croriv@earthlink.net
- **November 11-12**
Washington Conference Men's Retreat
Ty Gibson—☎(425)481-7171

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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

FEELINGS FOR GOD

By Ty Gibson

"Feel after Him" Acts 17:27

God gave David perhaps the highest compliment the Creator of the universe could render: "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart" (Acts 13:22, NKJV).

This means, at the very least, that God appreciated and resonated with David's emotional and spiritual makeup. David had a heart like God's heart. He could feel the feelings of God, as well as think the thoughts of God. He was motivated by the things that move God. He loved what God loves and hated what God hates.

David was the kind of man who could be both a fierce warrior and a poet-songwriter. He could fight a bear

to protect his sheep in the afternoon and write a song with heartfelt passion in the evening: "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple" (Psalm 27:4).

He was a man who was in touch with his emotions and channeled them toward God. Sometimes David exclaimed with a growling fervency, "God is a strong fortress!" Other times he would whisper under His breath, "God is so beautiful, and I want to see new aspects of His beauty every day of my life."

Are you a man or a woman after God's own heart? Do you merely think thoughts about Him, or do you also feel feelings toward Him?

May I encourage you to cultivate

an emotional orientation toward God? Reach out and touch Him with your heart right now. Wherever you are reading this—at your desk, on a plane, at an internet café—right now, quietly and softly speak these words to the One in whose image your heart was made: God, you are extremely beautiful, and I desire nothing more than to behold Your lovely character all the days of my life.

Don't be shy; say it. God is listening . . . with His heart.

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

He who desires salvation should fix his mind upon the cross of Calvary. It is there that the sinner may behold what sin has done. There he can see the infinite sacrifice that has been made to redeem him from the penalty of the broken law of God. As the transgressor realizes his lost condition, he sees in Christ his only hope of salvation. From the cross he learns precious lessons of the life, the self-denial, the self-sacrifice, the goodness, the mercy and love of the Son of God, who gave himself for us. Calvary portrays the matchless attributes of the divine character. As he looks to the cross, he will hate sin; for he will understand that it was sin that rejected, reproached, denied, scourged, and crucified the Majesty of Heaven. He will love the Father, who gave all Heaven to men in the gift of His only begotten Son. His heart will be filled with an eager desire for the knowledge of God, and for an understanding of the plan of salvation. He who has had a vivid view of the cross, will hate sin, and love righteousness. His doubts will vanish in the clear light reflected from the cross of Calvary.

Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, July 6, 1888

The light reflected from the cross of Calvary will humble every proud thought. Those who seek God with all the heart, and accept the great salvation offered them, will open the door of the heart to Jesus. They will cease to ascribe glory to themselves. They will not pride themselves on their acquirements, or take credit to themselves for their capabilities, but will regard all their talents as God's gifts, to be used to His glory. Every intellectual ability they will regard as precious only as it can be used in the service of Christ.

Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 114

For the real good of every gift it is essential, first, that the giver be in the gift—as God always is, for He is love—and next, that the receiver know and receive the giver in the gift. Every gift of God is but a harbinger of His greatest and only sufficing gift—that of Himself. No gift unrecognized as coming from God is at its own best: therefore many things that God would gladly give us, things even that we need because we are, must wait until we ask for them, that we may know whence they come: when in all gifts we find Him, then in Him we shall find all things.

George MacDonald, *Unspoken Sermons*, Series II, "The Word of Jesus on Prayer"

BY HERB MONTGOMERY

BROTHERS IN CHRIST

I want to thank God that, in His infinite wisdom and love, He saw fit to look down and use this young kid from West Virginia to teach this Baptist pastor (who's been ministering for thirty years) new insights into His love and to give me some things to think about.

The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary. I present before you the great, grand monument of mercy and regeneration, salvation and redemption—the Son of God uplifted on the cross. This is to be the foundation of every discourse given by our ministers.

—E. G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 315. (1915)

Last October I was privileged to conduct three weeks of meetings in the small town of Durant, Oklahoma. The entire series was planned for the church and un-church alike, following the counsel of the previous statement. Little did I know the blessing the Lord had in store.

One of the church elders had grown up with a local Baptist pastor who also did music ministry. The elder invited his pastor friend to do music specials for the first two nights. Although the meetings would be held in an Adventist church, this Baptist pastor agreed to come.

After our guest had special music the first night, I opened the discussion with every human's fundamental need for a true understanding of God and His extravagant love for them. The second night we launched into

mankind's struggle with how God could say He loves us so much and yet allow the horrendous atrocities and calamities we suffer. Then for the rest of the first week we centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Baptist pastor graciously invited me to attend his church on Sunday. It was packed, and I could see why. I was welcomed and loved from the moment I walked in the door. After not attending any church outside my own denomination in so long, I found the service to be culturally relevant, biblically pure and refreshing. The sermon was outstanding. It was taken from Titus 2:11-13, pointing out that the same grace that saves us also teaches us to obey. Then the pastor made a surprise announcement.

He told his congregation that

he had been attending my meetings at the local Seventh-day Adventist church. He had me stand as he introduced me to everyone, and then he said this:

"I know we have some differences with the Adventists, but I think there is plenty enough that we agree on too. I think we would get a lot further if we focused on the things we agree with the Adventists on, rather than always fighting over the things we differ in." He went on to testify of the tremendous blessing he had been receiving through the meetings. Then, looking at his congregation, he said something I never thought I would hear from a Baptist pastor. "I will be attending these meetings, and I want to see every one of you there too."

continued on page 4 . . .