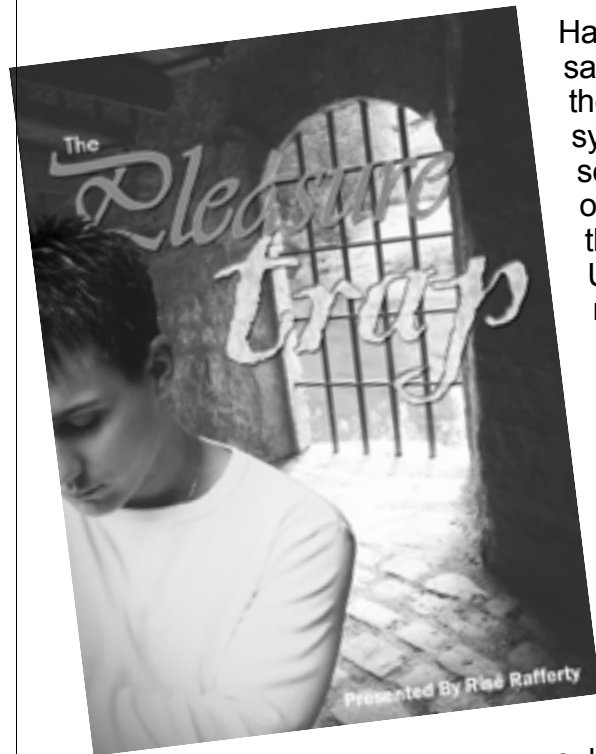


# THE PLEASURE TRAP



Happiness, delight, satisfaction, pleasure—they all seem to be synonymous. It would seem that the pursuit of one would guarantee the experience of all. Unfortunately this reality is illusive and escapes our grasp. The pursuit of happiness and satisfaction has too often become a frantic search in the wrong direction. Our attempts at finding fulfillment can lure us down the dark avenues of substance abuse and addiction. Approaching this

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NOVEMBER 2005

## Events Schedule

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Herb Montgomery—☎(214)564-0223
- **November 26**  
Lewisburg SDA Church, WV  
Herb Montgomery—☎(304)392-6151
- **December 2-4**  
Marietta SDA Korean Church, GA  
Herb Montgomery—☎(770)499-7678
- **December 17**  
Beckley SDA Church, WV  
Herb Montgomery—☎(304)392-6151
- **December 24**  
Lewisburg SDA Church, WV  
Herb Montgomery—☎(304)392-6151
- **January 4-8, 2006**  
SOULS LE Retreat, FL  
James Rafferty
- **January 20-21, 2006**  
Desert Valley SDA Church, Tucson, AZ  
Herb Montgomery—☎(520)327-5719
- **January 20-21, 2006**  
3 Angels SDA Church, St. Joseph, MO  
James Rafferty—☎(816)279-1716
- **January 31–February 4, 2006**  
Madison Academy Week of Prayer, TN  
Herb Montgomery—☎(615)865-4055
- **February 3-8, 2006**  
Thailand—Week of Prayer  
James Rafferty—abelpan@missioncollege.edu
- **February 10-11, 2006**  
University of Georgia Campus Ministry  
Herb Montgomery—☎(678)525-4026
- **March 3-5, 2006**  
Westminster SDA Church, SC  
James Rafferty—☎(864)638-0653

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PO Box 1888 • Malo, WA 99150 • USA  
Phone: (509)779-4444 or (509)779-4795  
Fax: (509)779-4140  
E-mail: lbm@starband.net  
www.lbm.org

*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*

## Mr. Wadsworth's Apple Tree

By Herb Montgomery

Christ's second coming is the most beautiful word-picture in the Bible. Jesus' triumphant return to rescue His own and take them home to His heavenly kingdom, united loved ones, angelic sights and sounds, and most of all, His warm embrace—I can't wait. My wife and I especially look forward to seeing two angels winging two special little ones to our arms. Yet the Bible also describes how some will meet that day with fear and trembling:

"The sky was split apart . . . and every mountain and island [was] moved out of their places. Then the kings, . . . the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of

their wrath has come.'"<sup>1</sup>

But things for this group may not be as they appear. Proverbs offers a behind-the-scenes look at that day. "The wicked flee when no one is pursuing."<sup>2</sup>

You see, we humans are plagued by the guilt and condemnation that our sins produce. Ever since Adam and Eve, we've been running from God every time He shows up. Our guilt convinces us that He's out to get us, but God harbors no ill feelings toward us. Calvary proves that. All along, we've been running when no one is "pursuing."

Mr. Wadsworth was an old man in the neighborhood where I grew up that everyone was afraid of. We would sneak past his scary-looking house into his back yard and help ourselves to his apple tree. One day I was there alone, grabbing an apple, when I felt this heavy hand land on my shoulder. Turning, I met Mr. Wadsworth face to face! I screamed

and took off running. Later that evening Mr. Wadsworth appeared at my house with a bag of apples. I was so embarrassed. My parents invited him to stay for dinner and we were best friends from that day on.

I was totally wrong about Mr. Wadsworth. He was really very cool. But this memory makes me wonder, "Could we be wrong about God as well?" Maybe He's not what we think He is. He says, "You thought that I was altogether like you."<sup>3</sup> But He isn't! "God is love."<sup>4</sup>

He's not the enemy—sin is! He's not what we need to fear—sin is! We can share in carrying the "last message of mercy" to this dying world by proclaiming "the revelation of His character of love."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 6:14-17, NASB.

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 1:28, NASB.

<sup>3</sup> Psalms 50:21, NKJV.

<sup>4</sup> 1 John 4:8.

<sup>5</sup> *Christ's Object Lessons*, E. G. White, p. 415.

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# COOL QUOTES

Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 589

All blessings must come through a Mediator. Now every member of the human family is given wholly into the hands of Christ, and whatever we possess—whether it is the gift of money, of houses, or lands, or reasoning powers, of physical strength, of intellectual talents—in this

present life, and the blessings of the future life, are placed in our possession as God's treasures to be faithfully expended for the benefit of man. Every gift is stamped with the cross and bears the image and superscription of Jesus Christ. All things come of God. From the smallest benefits up to the largest blessing, all flow through the one Channel—a superhuman mediation sprinkled with the blood that is of value beyond estimate because it was the life of God in His Son.

Ellen G. White, *Faith and Works*, p. 22

“But if God is so good as you represent Him, and if He knows all that we need, and better far than we do ourselves, why should it be necessary to ask Him for anything?”

I answer, What if He knows prayer to be the thing we need first and most? What if the main object in God's idea of prayer be the supplying of our great, our endless need—the need of Himself? . . . Hunger may drive the runaway child home, and he may or may not be fed at once, but he needs his mother more than his dinner.

George MacDonald, *Unspoken Sermons*, Second Series, “The Word of Jesus on Prayer”

## MISSION UPDATE

BY TY GIBSON

# A WELL-DEFINED MISSION

*From a biblical standpoint, our world is finished, and we are living on borrowed time. Every new day is God's sheer gift of mercy.*

Our world is being pummeled with natural disasters. Go back to the last few days of 2004. On December 26 the earth was shaken so violently that its entire mass shifted. The North Pole literally moved to such a degree that the length of Earth's day was shortened by three millionths of a second. Time, as we know it, was permanently changed. The earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean on that ominous day and the Tsunami it birthed released an amount of energy equal to one million atomic bombs, thrusting our world into one of the most devastating natural disasters in recorded history. The death toll exceeded 250,000.

Then 2005 unfolded with its own calamities. On August 29 Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, producing flooding that completely destroyed the city of New Orleans, with estimated damages at \$200 billion. It was the costliest tropical cyclone of all time. Katrina was followed on September 24 by Hurricane Rita. Before we could catch our breath, a 7.6 earthquake hit parts of Pakistan and India on October 8. The death toll presently stands at more than 50,000, with an estimated five million people left homeless. What's next?

We can't help but cry out, Where is God in all this devastation? God is here, urging every person in the world to find

present peace and eternal refuge in Christ. From a biblical standpoint, our world is finished, and we are living on borrowed time. Every new day is God's sheer gift of mercy. There is only one reason He allows this world to continue: “The Lord is . . . long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). The one item on God's agenda is the salvation of souls. In light of the devastation coming upon our world, and the fact that God is striving to find earthly channels through whom He can communicate the gospel, there is only one goal worthy of our focus—we must urgently and unwaveringly spread the message of God's love to as many people as possible as fast as possible. Our mission is well-defined: “You were chosen to tell about the excellent qualities of God, who called you” (1 Peter 2:9, *God's Word Translation*).

Light Bearers Ministry offers you a channel through which to spread the saving light of the gospel to the nations. Whether you are just getting acquainted with us or have been a supporter along the way, allow me to share with you (or to

remind you) who we are and what we do. Light Bearers is a ministry wholly devoted to the proclamation of the gospel, with a specialized emphasis on publishing mass quantities of low-cost literature for free distribution to the world. In our formative years, God gave us a vision to perform a task for Him that was not being done. With His special leading, an extremely cost-effective and totally unique literature outreach plan (that had been sitting dormant all along in the inspired counsel) was formulated. We read that truth-filled literature should be spread across the planet like leaves in autumn, bringing the gospel within the reach of millions and preparing the world for its closing events. Knowing that God never asks of anyone but what He stands ready to accomplish through that person by their simple obedience, we decided to begin—although we didn't know how. We weren't familiar with the printing industry, we knew nothing about shipping into foreign countries, and had no language translation experience. But just as we suspected, as we started following God's leading, He brought together the needed organizational components and resources

for a mass distribution venture that has, indeed, scattered literature over large population segments of the world like the leaves of autumn. Month by month, Light Bearers is putting millions upon millions of gospel publications into circulation, city after city, village after village, blanketing whole nations with the truth, in their own languages.

We do not know how many grains of sand are left to fall in the hourglass of time. We do not know how many more human lives will be swept away by natural disasters—for which God is blamed and blasphemed—before this great warfare is over. We *do* know that we live in the most urgent and crucial portion of Earth's history, and we *do* know what our mission is under God's clear directive. Light Bearers Ministry is just getting started. We are presently laying plans to increase our efforts. Help us, we urge you in the name of our Savior, to flood the world with waves of light. Thousands for sure, hopefully millions of men, women and children will say *yes* to God's grace—if we will simply invite them in.