



# GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

Light Bearers Ministry 2010 Yearend Report

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

*Jesus Christ, Luke 4:17-19*



Dear Friends of Light Bearers Ministry,

**It's late!**

**Really late!!**

We are past the midnight hour of human history.

“You know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living” (Romans 13:10-12, NLT).

As 2010 draws to a close, it's hard to believe that we have been engaged in this work for 25 years now. We're almost ready to start quoting the verse, “Once I was young, now I am old” (Psalm 37:25, NLT). But not yet! Actually, we're still pretty young (or at least we feel young), and there is much work yet to be done. We believe more than ever that Jesus is urgent to return. And we are urgent to hasten His return.

It seems like just a few days ago that we began going door-to-door and formulating ways to get the truth out there. Early on God gave us a vision for reaching a much larger audience than any traveling preacher can. The power of the printed page was brought to our attention through the writings of Ellen White. The Lord opened the way for a publishing work to be launched. A very simple but effective goal was set: to publish truth-filled literature for free distribution to millions of people in the poorest countries of the world. Over a half billion publications have gone into circulation so far, and there is no sign of the hunger for this material abating. We have witnessed God's special anointing on this mission.


Light Bearers Ministry is, in a special sense, a ministry for the poor, and always has been. From the beginning, God placed a burden on our hearts to specifically funnel the resources granted us to the neediest people on the planet.

In this special yearend report you will encounter the heart of God toward the poor. We pray that you will resonate with His heart. The entire world system is corrupt, oppressive and selfish. Those of us who know the Savior's benevolent grace are called upon to opt out of the system, to live our lives as counter-culture revolutionaries who spurn the popular selfism of the world, and to give all that we are and all we have for the proclamation of the gospel to the downtrodden, the marginalized, the poor. This yearend report will share what Light Bearers Ministry is doing to bring the grace of Christ to those who need it most (more accurately, to those who *know* they need it). We invite you to feel the pain that grips our world and to feel the conviction to act for the advancement of God's kingdom among the poor.

These are challenging economic times. We are so very thankful for your continued sacrificial giving to this vital work. You can be assured that Light Bearers Ministry makes efficient use of your financial gifts. We consider you our partners in ministry and your contributions as a sacred trust. Our financial formula is very simple: we print and ship as much truth-filled literature as we possibly can each year. The LBM board of directors looks at the total of the previous year's contributions and then sets the coming year's budget at an anticipated 5 to 10% increase. We then calculate how many containers can be produced with that amount of money. Then we hope and pray contributions will exceed our budget, thus making it possible for us to put even more literature into circulation than our budget had planned. We pray that benevolent, mission-minded friends of the ministry will be blessed financially and that the Lord will guide them to increase their monthly support and/or make special larger donations so we can do more.

Thank you for your partnership with Light Bearers Ministry. We appreciate the fact that you believe in the work we are doing and support it with your financial gifts and prayers.

Your fellow servants in Christ,

  
Ty Gibson and James Rafferty,  
On behalf of the entire team here at Light Bearers Ministry

## **The real world that most of us in western countries know little to nothing about is a world of extreme poverty and suffering. Soberly consider the picture:**

- It is astounding to realize that about 90% of our world's wealth is in the hands of 10% of the population, while millions sink beneath burdens of pain too great to bear.
- All the while, according to UNICEF, 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. That's more than 8 million per year. And they "die quietly in some of the poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and the conscience of the world. Being meek and weak in life makes these dying multitudes even more invisible in death."
- Nearly two out of three people in the world do not have access to clean water.
- 1.4 million children die each year from lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.
- A mere 12% of the world's population uses 85 percent of its water.
- It is estimated that about one third of humanity lives on a dollar or less per day, half on less than \$2.50 per day, 80% on less than \$5 per day. Many of these are "employed" (more like enslaved) for such wages to manufacture clothing, electronics and other consumer goods under the exploitive requirements of American and European corporations.
- All of this exploitation allows 20% of the world's population to consume 75% of the world's resources.

The apostle James foresaw that this state of affairs would exist at the end of time:

"Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. Your gold and silver have become worthless. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This treasure you have accumulated will stand as evidence against you on the day of judgment. For listen! Hear the cries of the field workers whom you have cheated of their pay. The wages you held back cry out against you. The cries of those who harvest your fields have reached the ears of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you" (James 5:1-6, NLT).

But the picture is more diabolical still, because the consumption-machine must be sustained by the war-machine. In order for the resources of this world to be corporately controlled and fed into the greedy appetites of the few who have the upper hand, a massive military complex is needed. So while the masses starve to death and slave away in assembly lines, a colossal amount of money is spent to manufacture weapons for war.

- World military expenditures in 2009 were estimated to have reached \$1.531 trillion. This is a 6% increase since 2008 and a 49% increase since 2000. More and more money is being spent for implements of war and military expansion.
- The USA is the principal dictator of the current world arms trend, with its military spending accounting for just under half of the world total. The USA is not merely the most powerful nation in the world, but is more powerful than all other nations combined.

## **The apostle John was shown that the world system would become lavishly capitalistic and enslaving at the end of time. He also saw that this mammoth political, religious, consumer edifice would finally come crashing down as a retributive judgment on those who have lived in luxury by the sweat and blood of those they could exploit:**

“After all this I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority, and the earth grew bright with his splendor. He gave a mighty shout:

‘Babylon is fallen—that great city is fallen! She has become a home for demons . . .  
For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of her passionate immorality . . .  
Because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich.’

For her sins are piled as high as heaven, and God remembers her evil deeds . . .  
She glorified herself and lived in luxury, so match it now with torment and sorrow.  
Therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day—death and mourning and famine.  
She will be completely consumed by fire, for the Lord God who judges her is mighty . . .”

And the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. They will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment.

. . . The merchants of the world will weep and mourn for her, for there is no one left to buy their goods. She bought great quantities of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet cloth. She also bought wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots, and bodies—that is, human slaves [NKJV: “bodies and souls of men”].

‘The fancy things you loved so much are gone,’ they cry.  
‘All your luxuries and splendor are gone forever, never to be yours again.’

The merchants who became wealthy by selling her these things will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment” (Revelation 18, NLT).

judgment

## Got the picture?

Modern Babylon—which is described as a religious, political, and economic system that has grown wealthy by enslaving the bodies and souls of men—is about to come crashing down under the weight of its own deception and greed. And when it falls, it will never rise again.

But before the world system collapses, God’s people have a vitally important mission to perform. The Loud Cry angel is to do his work of illuminating the whole world. This angel symbolizes God’s end-time church. The light it carries to the masses of humanity is the truth about God’s good character revealed in Christ.

With Revelation 18 in view, God showed Ellen White that the final message will go global largely by means of gospel literature:

“In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power and who lightens the earth with his glory” (Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 140).

Light Bearers Ministry exists for the purpose of proclaiming the glory of God to the nations through the printed page. Babylon is fallen spiritually and will soon fall economically. All that can be done to spread the gospel should be done right now with all the speed we can muster. Mass distribution of truth-filled literature is the most effective means of getting the job done.





## God's Regard for the Poor

“Give generously to (the poor) and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land” (Deuteronomy 15:10-11, NIV).

“He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God” (Proverbs 14:31, NIV).

“Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man... He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever” (Psalm 112:4, 9, NIV).

“The poor will see and be glad—you who seek God, may your hearts live!” (Psalm 69:32, NIV).

“I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy” (Psalm 140:12, NIV).

“If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD—and He will repay you!” (Proverbs 19:17, NLT).

“Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard” (Proverbs 21:13, NKJV).

“He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses” (Proverbs 28:27, NIV).

“The poorest of the poor will find pasture, and the needy will lie down in safety” (Isaiah 14:30, NIV).

# 2010 Recipients

**The following countries received literature shipments from LBM in 2010. All of these nations are in the throes of extreme poverty and suffering. All of them are in desperate need of the gospel of Christ. We thank you on their behalf for enabling LBM to give them the precious gift of truth-filled literature. Each container holds between two and three million publications of various types and sizes.**

## malawi

As one of the least developed and most densely populated countries in the world, the poverty level is extreme in Malawi. AIDS claims tens of thousands of lives every year and is the number one cause of death among adults. Malawi was the first country to receive a container of literature from LBM in 2010. The tracts and Bible lessons were used for evangelistic meetings held in the city of Blantyre by Paul Ratsara, president of the Southern Indian Ocean Division.

## zambia

Over the years this south central African country has been a major recipient of LBM literature. On our September trip to Lusaka for evangelistic meetings, we learned that one in 17 people in Zambia is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. A number of high-ranking political and military officials are Adventists, such as the minister of education and the chief of police. In their upcoming political elections, one of the candidates for President is an Adventist. We inquired concerning why such a high percentage of Zambians are Adventists. We were truly caught by surprise at the answer given by church leaders: one of the major contributing factors is the multiplied millions of publications LBM has shipped to Zambia over the last 20 years. The power of truth-filled reading material to impact a nation cannot be overstated.

## south africa

This part of the world field is alive and vibrant with ministry. The population is about 50 million. Among them there is a large number of refugees. Fleeing from their homeland due to human rights violations and the threat of starvation, it is estimated that more than 3 million Zimbabweans currently live in South Africa as illegal immigrants. Most of them are homeless or living in plastic/cardboard shacks. They are desperate and hungry to understand the meaning of life. The two containers sent to South Africa are being used by 254 churches. Going door to door and through the streets, the members are utilizing the literature to enroll people in Bible studies.



# philippines

The island of Luzon was the recipient of one LBM container in 2010. The request came from Pastor Gulfan, president of the conference. Four evangelistic campaigns were conducted with the literature as either pre-work or follow up, one of which was preached by Ted Wilson, newly elected General Conference President. His meetings were held in Makati City in Manila, one of the most populous metropolitan areas in the world.

# congo

Currently the Democratic Republic of Congo is considered the poorest nation on earth. Political corruption and war have been non-stop in Congo since gaining its independence in 1960. The country of 70.9 million is afflicted by what is being called “Africa’s World War,” in which an estimated 3 million people have been killed so far, with no end in sight. We sent a container of literature to Congo with a mix of three languages: French, Swahili, and Lingala. Many don’t have Bibles, so the 15-part set of Bible lessons was especially prepared with fully quoted sections of Scripture for every topic. These lessons will be the only direct exposure to biblical truth many of these people will have access to. Satanic forces tried desperately to block this container. Congo customs refused to allow the container to be cleared, requiring high fees. So we rerouted the container into Tanzania and trucked it over to Congo.

# zimbabwe

Under the military rule of Robert Mugabe since 1987, Zimbabwe has been reduced to a heap of suffering humanity. At war with Congo, rift with unrivaled political corruption, burdened with one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence in the world, the average life expectancy in Zimbabwe is a mere 45 and the median age is 17. It is a nation of teenagers and young adults. People suffer much and die young in Zimbabwe. And yet these are among the most receptive people in the world to the love of God. We sent three containers of literature to this needy nation. Two are being used in the city of Bulawayo and one in Harare for evangelistic meetings and general Bible work.

# senegal

With a 90% Muslim population, Senegal affords us a great opportunity to share the gospel of Christ with a religion that is very hard to penetrate. In a population of 15 million, there are only 499 Adventists. The government has created a motto designed to keep Islam dominant and quell interest in any other faith: “Un Peuple, Un But, Une Foi (French).” “One People, One Goal, One Faith.” And yet, the Senegalese people are very receptive to gospel literature. The container you helped us send to Senegal is being used for two primary endeavors: (1) to set up a correspondence Bible school, and (2) as follow up material for a daily radio broadcast.

# nigeria

With more than 150 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa and the eighth most populated in the world. Approximately half are Muslim and half Christian, and yet Nigeria is home to one of the world’s largest organized crime networks, boasting connections at the highest levels of the political system. Because they operate largely on college campuses, these crime units are called “confraternities” or “campus cults.” Drug trafficking is their main activity. But the biggest challenge to sound biblical faith and the three angels messages is not the rampant crime, but rather the charismatic movement, which is taking Nigeria by storm. Shallow wealth and health preachers are a popular plague. Counter influences are desperately needed, and there is none better than the intelligent unfolding of truth to be found in LBM literature. Two containers have been sent in 2010.

# uganda

With a long history of political corruption, civil strife, and international conflict, Uganda is a human pool of pain. So short is the average lifespan that more than 50% of the population is under 15 years of age. Like Zimbabwe, Uganda is a nation of youth and young adults. While many humanitarian organizations and ministries are doing a good work for Uganda by supplying food and medical care, the cycle of poverty and suffering will never be broken until it is addressed at the deepest level: the heart. The people of Uganda need the gospel, which offers deliverance from sin and guilt. The container of truth-filled literature sent to Uganda with your support will introduce many Ugandans to the Savior.



By Barry Mosier

## Congo Frontline Mission Report Invasion Forces Arrive

All thirty-seven evangelism students stared in wonder as Keith carried in his armload of material into the classroom. After setting them on a table in the front of the room, the entire class rose as one man and started scrambling ahead to grab their share of the precious goods.

“No, no!” Keith shouted. “There are plenty for all! Just go back to your seats and we will pass them out so each of you will get his share.”

Finally, a doubtful group of students returned to their seats. What was object of their clamor? What were they so afraid that they might lose out on? Bible studies in the Swahili and Lingala languages. The long awaited container of Bible studies from Light Bearers Ministry has arrived. The journey was impressive—crossing the Pacific and Indian Oceans before traversing all of Kenya and Uganda by truck and finally reaching us here at Congo Frontline Missions in Kisangani, DRC

Although there is a great shortage of Bibles in Congo—especially rural areas—these studies ask topical questions, then quote the full scriptural answers in fifteen lessons. The lessons are colorful and very attractive. Thus, for many people, a full set of these lessons will “become” their Bible. Knowing that God’s Word is the most powerful force in the universe, we expect these silent messengers to mount a serious invasion into Satan’s dark strongholds here.

Our church planters are already taking boxes of these “invasion forces” to the un-entered areas where they are working. Light Bearers Ministry also sent us French lessons, which will help us to reach the educated portion of the population.

A big thank you to Light Bearers Ministry for this huge contribution to the spreading of God’s word here in DRC. We also thank each of you for your prayers on behalf of these Bible studies. We trust the promises that assure us “so shall My word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me void” (Isaiah 55:11).

# Financial Strategy

Dear Light Bearers,

There is no county in our country that does not use this wonderful literature. They are use by the Pathfinders Club, AYS, lay people, and can be found in all of our churches. Keep working for the Lord.

Pastor James Golay, President, Liberia Union Mission

I very sincerely want to thank you for the support you have given and are still giving to this union. The containers of materials are of very great use to evangelism in this area. During the Hope 2010 series by pastor Pardon Mwansa from Nairobi, the Discover Guides and Ugundusi lessons were of great help. Over 2500 students graduated and about the same number were baptized. These materials are extensively used in institutions of learning, including public universities. The prison ministry in this Union has taken root and large numbers of inmates are being baptized into the church using the Light Bearers Ministry materials. Thank you! Thank you!

Nathan Oirere, Voice of Prophecy Director/Speaker East African Union of SDA

We are burning for the gospel. This weekend we are going to visit about five prison cells to distribute Light Bearers literature. I am sure it will be exciting. Our motivation does not depend on anyone. It's the LOVE of CHRIST that PROPELS us into ACTION. Looking forward to receiving more material.

Beenzu, Lay Evangelist in Zambia

## Words from the Field

The two containers with tracts have safely arrived in November and December 2009. The first ones to benefit from the 15-part Bible Studies in Swahili were Kibidula's 35 Lay missionaries. They were very happy to get those tracts, which will allow them to have Bible studies with the people in their remote villages. In January 2010 distribution started to the six Conferences in Tanzania, who are all very eager to get the tracts in their hands. Church members are keen to witness about the truth to their neighbors, and with these tracts they have a tool, which will surely produce miracles of grace for God's glory!

Irma, Kibidula Farm Institute, Tanzania

Thank you for the literature you sent us. The Portuguese countries are rejoicing. This year Angola Union alone baptized more than 20,000 members. Our division is pleading with you to help us by sending six containers to Angola. I hope Dr. Ratsara, our division president, has already phoned elder Ty. Pastor Ratsara contacted me today to plead on behalf of Mozambique union, requesting three urgent containers. They are planning for the beginning of the year a very aggressive initiative and they are counting on your literature. This is why I am contacting you, praying that you will be willing and able to respond to this request. Thank you what Light Bearers has already done for that country, but we have a blessed challenge that we want to overcome with your help.

Sincerely

Gilberto Carlos Araujo, Vice President, Southern Africa Indian-Ocean Division



# LIGHT BEARERS

37457 Jasper Lowell Rd • Jasper, Oregon 97438 • 541-988-3333 • [www.lbm.org](http://www.lbm.org) • [info@lbm.org](mailto:info@lbm.org)