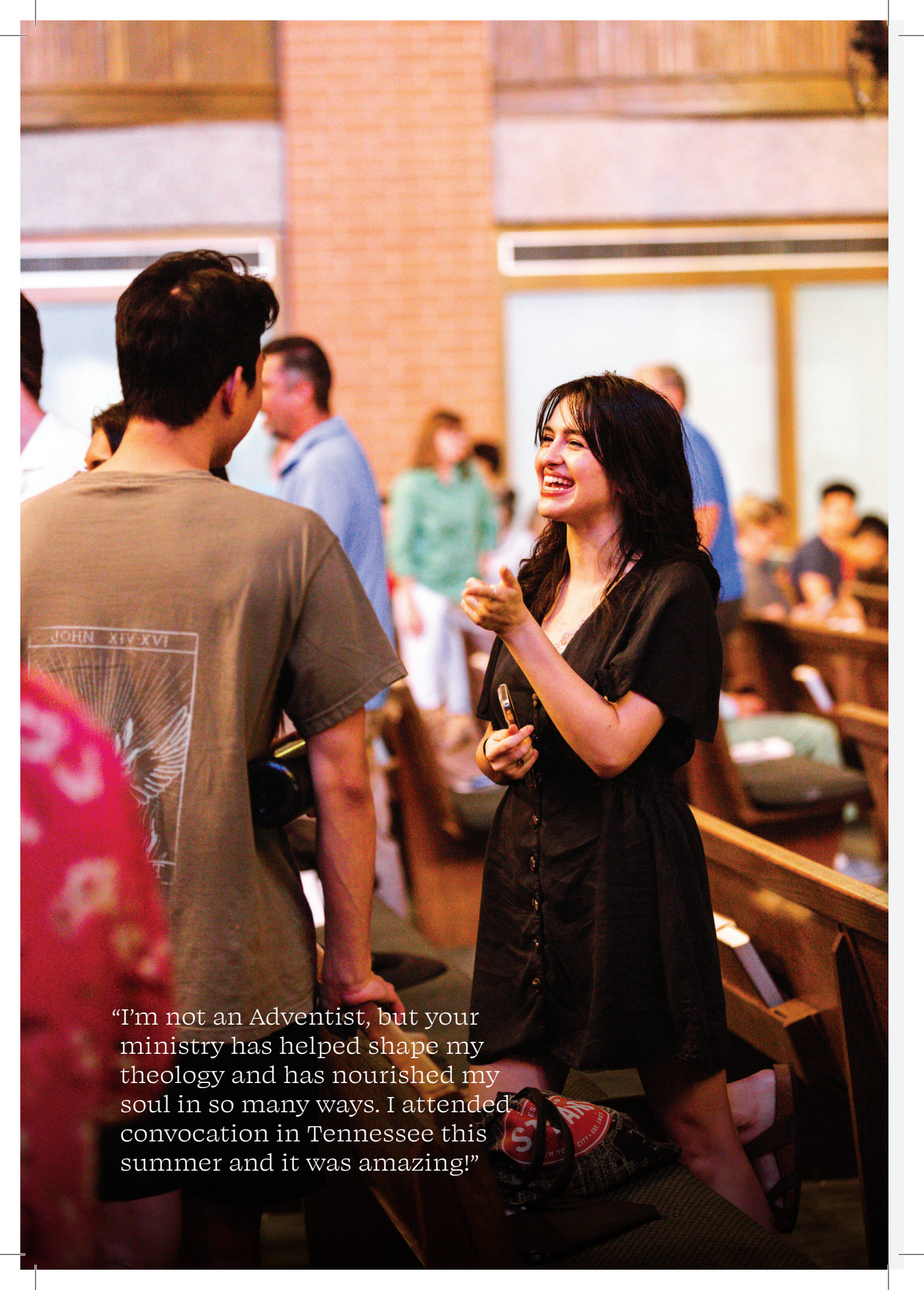




Let's Go.

2023 Light Bearers Annual Report



A photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a black dress, laughing and talking to a man in a grey t-shirt. The man's t-shirt has a graphic on the back that says "JOHN XIV-XVI" above a drawing of a dove. They are in a church setting with wooden pews and other people in the background. A red and white "STAN" bag is on the floor near the woman.

“I’m not an Adventist, but your ministry has helped shape my theology and has nourished my soul in so many ways. I attended convocation in Tennessee this summer and it was amazing!”

Dear Friend,

You undoubtedly know many things about yourself, like your name, favorite food, and social security number, but one thing you might not know about yourself, which we think you should know, is that we received the following message because of you:

"Prior to your event, I understood God as someone who wants to be served, but now I realize that God's love for us means that He serves us."

And this one too:

"I'm not an Adventist, but your ministry has helped shape my theology and has nourished my soul in so many ways. I attended convocation in Tennessee this summer and it was amazing!"

And there are many more. Seriously, our inboxes are flooded with emails written by real people whose actual lives have been changed because of your support of Light Bearers. We want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible impact you've had in 2023.

In Matthew 28, Jesus gave His disciples a command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19). These marching orders were not just for the disciples but for every person who follows Jesus.

Throughout the last year, you have been going places with the Spirit of God. Maybe not physically, but through your

support, you were there when a mother in Zambia received *Truth Link* Bible studies, when a young woman in Germany felt empowered to share the gospel through the ARISE Intensive, and when we preached God's love to a roomful of university students in Texas.

You have taken Christ's command to go seriously. You haven't waited timidly on the sidelines in this cosmic battle called "the great controversy." Together, we have boldly proclaimed the gospel to souls who have been sitting in darkness and languishing for want of the knowledge of God's love. Hallelujah!

In the following pages, we're going to take you back to Australia, Texas, Zambia, and many more places where your prayers and support have made an impact. We hope that, as you read, you'll see how many lives you've changed, you'll revel in the sheer beauty of what partnering with the Holy Spirit and God's people can do, and you'll celebrate with us what God has done through you in 2023.

So, let's go!

In Christ,



Ty Gibson and David Asscherick
on behalf of the Light Bearers team

A Timeline of 2023

January 13 — SCwithDA begins. David leads thousands of people on a three-week journey through Ellen White's classic book *Steps to Christ* on YouTube and Instagram.

Jan 14–16 — Ty speaks at the Mid-America Union Ministers Meetings. Church leaders' interest in righteousness by faith is growing, so Ty was invited to speak on the significance of this concept for every Adventist doctrine.

700

This year, we had over 700 ARISE Intensive attendees, two thirds of which were 35 years old or younger; 42 students in this year's ARISE Australia class, with all but one under the age of 35 and 23 of them in their teens; and 450 new students on ARISE Online.

To date, we've trained and disciplined over 3,900 people through our collective ARISE discipleship programs.



Jan 27-Feb 3 — Ty preaches an eight-part series in Turkey for the Workers Family Retreat, where pastors, missionaries, and church leaders come together. Many use Light Bearers content in their work.

Feb 6 — The tenth ARISE Australia class convenes with 42 students, mostly young adults. The biblical narrative is taught with power and clarity. Hearts and lives are transformed.

Let's Go Disciple



David Asscherick

Discipleship is at the heart of what Light Bearers is all about. We launched ARISE, the in-person discipleship component of our ministry, all the way back in 2003. So, yes, this is the twentieth anniversary of ARISE! Glory to God!

In this year's ARISE Australia class, something strange happened. We had a self-described atheist attend the full-length program. How exactly did that happen? Well, it's a long story. For now, though, I'll just say that this student, Edmund, was quite settled, he repeatedly insisted, in his atheism.

"No problem," we said. "Just attend the program, learn what you can, and see if it doesn't turn out to be pretty interesting and compelling."

Edmund entered
ARISE as an
atheist and left
as a disciple!

We encouraged him to be open and honest about his thinking and journey. Day after day, week after week, Jesus was lifted up in the story of Scripture and in all His beauty and sublimity. Edmund's heart was first intrigued. Then touched. Then, at last, it melted.

Edmund entered ARISE as an atheist and left as a disciple!

What happened? Jesus happened—through you.

Friends, Jesus is "happening" all over the world because of people like you and your support of Light Bearers. Edmund and the 41 other students that were part of this year's ARISE Australia class were transformed by the story of Scripture and equipped to share it.

That's not to mention the hundreds that attended the ARISE Intensives in Germany and Texas this year or the 450+ students who joined ARISE Online. One attendee from Texas, Destiny, wrote to us:

"This weekend broke me in a good way. I fell in love with God in a way that I've never experienced before... You guys seriously don't know how much you have affected my life... I am praying that God keeps using your ministry to make disciples and help others see Jesus for who He really is and fall in love with Him like I did."

On behalf of Edmund, Destiny, and so many others, we want to say thank you.

Mar 2-4 — David preaches at the Hyve Conference in Tennessee, a motivational and training event for Christian entrepreneurs. He speaks on how to incorporate the gospel into their business enterprises.

Mar 21-26 — Ty is in Brazil filming an online course on his book *The Sonship of Christ*, which has been gifted by many church leaders to Adventist ministers around the world.

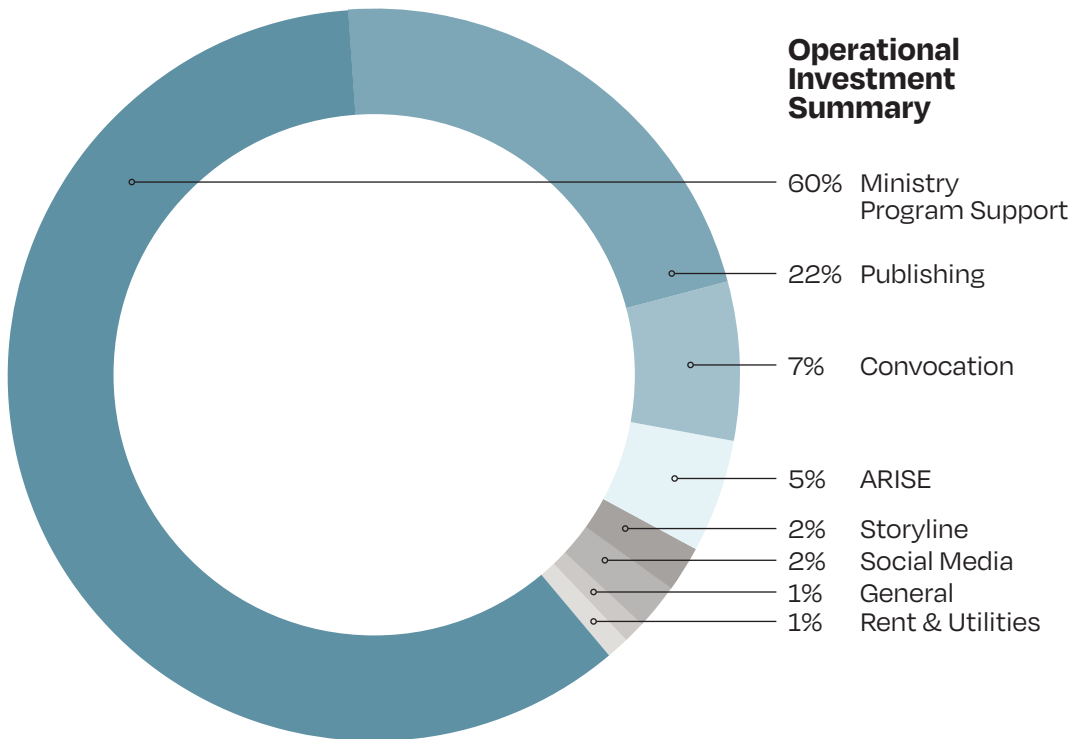
March 26 — *Story Encounters: The Chosen* premieres. We partnered with the Hope Channel in 2022 to produce this 13-part series in which Ty and David offered theological commentary on *The Chosen*, a multi-season TV show on the life of Jesus.



●
April 28–May 1 — Three hundred people, mostly young adults, come together for the first international ARISE Intensive at the Adventist University in Friedensau, Germany. Many gain a whole new perspective on their belief system.

Allocation of Resources

Every gift is put to maximum use with the highest standards of financial integrity.



May 5-6 — ARISE Australia graduates its tenth class. The weekend is combined with a 10-year anniversary celebration, where alumni gather to remember with gratitude how God has used ARISE to shape them as disciples of Christ.

May 16-21 — Ty preaches a seven-part gospel series at the Danish Union Camp Meeting. Many testify that the messages transformed their understanding of God's character.

May 26-28 — Ty preaches a series on the beauty of God's character and righteousness by faith at the Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting. The conference president says that this is the message all church members need to hear.

A hand holding a smartphone with a social media post on the screen. The post is from 'Hem' and says 'Join us in Parliament... I am for the... suffragist leader... statue—the first of a... iconic location...'. Below the post is a comment from 'Marshall Mathers' that says 'now come your...'.

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online community that inspires
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May 26–28 — David teaches a series on marriage in Lincoln, Nebraska, as he feels deeply convicted of the need to support more couples. Some attendees testify that the insights gained gave them hope and saved their marriages.

June 1–3 — David preaches at the Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting, picking up where Ty left off, proclaiming the gospel. Many people experience full-on revivals of their spiritual experience.



June 14–20 — Ty speaks at the German Union Congress. The event is televised from the Hope Channel headquarters in Germany, broadcasting its messages throughout the country.

June 15–18 — David speaks at the Southern New England Camp Meeting. The presence of the Holy Spirit is palpable. Heartfelt re-commitments to Christ are made.

June 27–July 1 — Messiah, Light Bearers 2023 Convocation, is held in Tennessee. Ty, David, Jeffrey Rosario, and Silvia Bacchiocchi preach a 12-part series on various messianic prophecies.

Let's Go Online



Ty Gibson

Somebody recently asked me, "In one sentence, what's Light Bearers?"

I said, "Light Bearers is a lean, mean gospel proclamation machine."

Not mean in the sense of angry, but in the sense of intentionality. With your support, we *mean* to get the job done. And, by God's grace, we operate *lean*. One of our internal principles is efficiency. We want to reach as many people as possible by putting your funds to the best use.

The messages were unlike anything they'd ever heard and had such a transformative impact that Matt is now becoming a pastor.

In the gospel commission, Jesus said to His followers, "go." Where, exactly? Where the people are. Where are the highest numbers of people? Definitely not at church.

If we're going to be intelligent about gospel proclamation, we must acknowledge that people are online—YouTube, Instagram, Facebook—and we should communicate through those platforms.

Recently, I met a couple, Matt and Leah, who told me that 20 years ago, they decided that they wanted nothing to do with God or Christianity. Then they recently found Light Bearers' YouTube channel. The

messages were unlike anything they'd ever heard and had such a transformative impact that Matt is now becoming a pastor. They also showed the videos to their teenage son, who watched one after another. Matt joyfully told me that his son was recently baptized.

In 2023, our subscribers watched 269,367 hours of our content on our video platforms. That's over 30 years of messages. In August, we filmed the second half of Season 6 of *Table Talk*, where we discussed Christ's parables. These episodes will be on TV and available to watch for free at tabletalk.online. We also made *Messiah* (this year's convocation series) available online too.

Christ calls us to be proactive, creative, and even aggressive in our mission. Your support of Light Bearers allows us to create a steady stream of media content that impacts people like Matt, Leah, and many more with the gospel. For that, we are so grateful!



July 18–22 — Ty speaks for the Mid-America Union President Council. Church leaders invited Ty to establish a theological framework for immersing members in the message of righteousness by faith.



July 20–29 — David preaches a gospel series at the Romania Camp Meeting. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Many members are students on ARISE Online.

|| 269,367

So far this year, people around the world watched 269,367 hours of our content on our video platforms— that's over 30 years!

To date, people around the world have watched over 1,683,676 hours of our content on our video platforms— that's over 192 years!



Scan the code to watch all 13 episodes of *Table Talk*, Season 6!

July 24–27 — Ty preaches a series on the transformational power of the gospel for the North Pacific Union Administrators Meetings. Many church leaders are passionate about re-centering Adventism in the gospel of Christ.

July 30–Aug 2 — David, Ty, our longtime ministry colleague Jeffrey Rosario, and our good friend and Light Bearers board member Cintia Nojima Huynh film the second half of *Table Talk*, Season 6: *The Parables of Jesus*.

Let's Go Deeper



Angelo Grasso

He was tempted to retreat into the comfort of familiar darkness, apprehensive of embracing true freedom.

Have you ever stepped out of a dark room into the sun's blinding radiance? Squinting eyes struggling to adapt, hands shielding yourself from the UV rays dancing on your optic nerves? Sometimes, when

our spiritual eyes have been accustomed to the darkness of shame-based religion, the brilliance of the gospel can leave us temporarily disoriented.

This was John's experience.

He recently attended the ARISE Intensive in Texas, where he gathered with 400 individuals. Our goal for the intensive was to introduce attendees to a narrative lens, which approaches Scripture and God through prisms of love, covenant, and freedom rather than the darkness of fear, shame, and obligation.

During the weekend, John experienced a breakthrough. As he absorbed the presentations, worshiped, and engaged in prayer with new friends, he felt like

stubborn scales were dropping from his eyes. It was overwhelming. So overwhelming that, once home, he was tempted to retreat into the comfort of familiar darkness, apprehensive of embracing true freedom. Fear and regret nagged him. Why was he just now seeing the light? Did he possess the strength to remain within its embrace? Would he stumble from grace?

That's when John reached out to our spiritual care team. His questions are far from unfamiliar to us. They resonate deeply. The spiritual care team of Light Bearers conducts countless conversations and extends thousands of prayers throughout the year to those in need of encouragement. We understand that life gets hard. That's why we're committed to not merely telling the story of God's character but also listening to your stories as you adjust your gaze to His beauty.

On behalf of the spiritual care team, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your financial support and prayers that empowered us to accompany John and many others like him on their journey from glory to glory in 2023.

August — Six containers of literature bound for Zimbabwe, South Africa, Zambia, West Congo, Costa Rica, and Peru shipped.

August 2-5 — Ty and the team are at ASI, networking with attendees and connecting with mission organizations who distribute Light Bearers literature.

August 11-13 — Ty speaks at the Sarasota Adventist Church on discovering real gospel love in a world that is becoming more defined by artificial intelligence.

1,500

In 2023, people from around the world, of many different belief systems, engaged in over 1,500 conversations with our spiritual care team for encouragement, prayer, and theological insight.



Sept 1–8 — Ty and Angelo Grasso, our Spiritual Care Director, conduct a week of spiritual revival at Southwestern Adventist University, titled *Recalibrate*, helping students center their lives in God's love.

Sept 8–10 — Four hundred attendees from more than 20 states come together for the ARISE Intensive Texas. The Spirit sets people free through the story of Scripture.



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Sept 18-Oct 9 — David and Ty lead a Holy Land tour through Israel, Egypt, and Jordan, with over 200 people in attendance. They preach the gospel in the very places where Jesus Himself preached, as did the apostles and ancient prophets.



Scan the code to see what it was like for Ty and David to walk and preach where Jesus walked and preached.



Nov 3–9 — Ty speaks for the Southeastern California Conference Ministerial Retreat. He teaches church leaders how to move their congregations in a decidedly gospel-centered direction.

November 10–18 — David teaches at the Adventist Seminary in Spain. The students are hungry for the knowledge of the Adventist message, in all its integrity, in the light of the gospel.

November 27 — OTwithDA Part 2 begins. Once again, David leads thousands of readers on a 65-day journey through another Ellen White classic on YouTube and Instagram. This time, it's *Prophets and Kings*.



1,000,000

This year, we printed one million Bible study guides and 120,000 Bibles in English, French, and Spanish and shipped them to Zimbabwe, West Congo, Zambia, South Africa, Costa Rica, and Peru.

To date, we've printed and shipped 755,778,084 pieces of gospel-filled publications into the mission field.

December — The Light Bearers team reviews the work of the previous year and lays plans for the coming year.

Let's Go to All



Kim Busl

In many countries, it's customary to pay off the immigration officers when crossing borders. One day, while crossing a border in Africa, I met the chief immigration officer, Frank. Instead of money, I gave him some of Light Bearers' literature.

A couple of months later, I came through again.

"I've read the studies you gave me and compared them with the Bible. I realized I can't take bribes anymore. I've stopped, but my colleagues aren't happy with me."

compared them with the Bible. I realized I can't take bribes anymore. I've stopped, but my colleagues aren't happy with me."

"I read what you gave me," Frank said. "Do you have more?"

I smiled, handed him some literature, and left. A couple months later, Frank asked for more.

Two months after that, I asked Frank how he was doing.

"Not so well," he said. "I've read the studies you gave me and

I smiled sympathetically and replied, "Be faithful, Frank, and God will bless you."

A couple months later, Frank told me he was feeling worse. He explained that not only had he stopped taking bribes but he also didn't allow his men to do so either. This was a radical change in a culture where you become an immigration officer so that you can take bribes.

Not long after, Frank told me that he felt that he needed to leave his job and go into ministry. After he turned in his notice, I had the privilege of bringing Frank on to do evangelism with our team.

Frank became a follower of Jesus because of you. There are many others like him, not just in Africa but all over the globe.

In 2023, we sent thousands and thousands of pieces of gospel literature to Zimbabwe, West Congo, South Africa, Zambia, Costa Rica, and Peru. All of this material is shipped free of charge with your support. We cannot thank you enough on behalf of those who will encounter Jesus through this printed material.



Scan the code to see how you're changing lives through supporting Light Bearers literature distribution.

Let's Go Together

Whether you travel often or rarely leave your hometown, we hope that by now you see that your influence is winning innumerable victories for the kingdom of light. It is a dynamically expanding reality, rippling through and transforming the lives of people like John in Texas who struggles with legalism, Edmund in Australia who is an atheist-turned-disciple, the people in the Zambian villages who receive literature, and so many more. These lives were changed through *your* support.

For your prayers and every dollar you gave, we thank you with the utmost gratitude. We know how much they mean and we are so grateful for your partnership!

There is likely a name coming to your mind right now of someone whose life would be changed if they believed in the good news of God's faithful love for them.

However, there is more to do. After preaching, we are often approached by various individuals who tell us, "My son needs to hear this message," "I wish my best friend could attend this event," or "My country needs gospel literature." For the many people who have heard the gospel, there are many more who haven't. There is likely a name coming to your mind right now of someone whose life would be changed if they believed in the good news of God's faithful love for them.

In 2024, we want to go and take that good news to them. There are people who need to hear the true gospel of God's faithfulness preached in all its beauty so that the shackles of legalism can fall at their feet. There are people who are standing on the brink of grace, but they need someone to listen and pray with them so they can step into the light of freedom. There are villages across the globe where people have never owned Bibles or any gospel literature, much less literature written in their own languages.

Jesus says to each of us, "Let's go!"

But we can't do it without you. God has given you agency and boldness to share the good news of His faithfulness around the world. So, we'd like to invite you to go with us—to the struggling Christian next door, to the fisherman in Tanzania who believes he must appease the gods, to the teenager who's wondering if God exists. Go with us by giving a special year-end gift at lightbearers.org/give, by scanning the code, or by sending your contribution by mail with the response card enclosed.

In Christ,

Ty Gibson



Scan the code to give and discover how your donation is impacting real people around the globe.

Build a Legacy with Light Bearers

By naming Light Bearers as a beneficiary of a planned gift, such as a bequest, charitable gift annuity, or charitable trust, you will share the good news of God's faithfulness with future generations.



Planned gifts can be structured to:

- Minimize your tax burden
- Ensure your loved ones and charitable organizations are taken care of
- Provide income to you during your lifetime

To learn more about planned gifts, please contact us at donations@lightbearers.org or by calling (877) 585-1111.

Jesus said, "Go!" So
together, we went. We
told God's Story. We loved
deeply. We made disciples.
We taught. We baptized.
We built community. And
God was with us through it
all. Thank you. Thank God.



lightbearers.org