

THANK YOU—

by Herb Montgomery
Director | Speaker



Considering the time of year, I would like to share with you one sentence that has been very meaningful to me throughout the years:

“You may say that you believe in Jesus, when you have an appreciation of the cost of salvation.” (E.G. White, *Review and Herald*, July 24, 1888)

This sentence is truly amazing because it allows us to begin to see very clearly that faith is more than mere ego-centric trust (for more on this topic, please listen to Mary-like Faith on our sermons/downloads page under Resources). We begin to see that true faith carries a certain quality that sets it apart from mere intellectual assent. We begin to sense that Faith involves a deep heart “appreciation.” Do you remember the story of the ten lepers Jesus healed?

“As He entered a village, ten leprosy men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ When He saw them, He said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they were going, they were cleansed. Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered and said, ‘Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner?’ And He said to him, ‘Stand up and go; your faith [deep heart appreciation] has made you well.’” (Luke 17:12-19)

Now, there were ten lepers in the story. All ten were healed. All ten were given a great gift. All ten were freed from their plight. But only one allowed “appreciation” to spring up in his heart. Only one allowed biblical faith to be awakened in his heart. Only one said, “Thank you.” This seems to be the idea in Paul’s famous statement to Timothy:

“For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.” (1 Timothy 4:10)

God has accomplished and given salvation to all. But which ones will allow that gift to accomplish the change in their hearts that it was designed to make. How many will allow “appreciation” to be awakened in them. How many will allow God’s generosity and love to touch their hearts as to awaken in them the desire to “no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.” (2 Corinthians 5:14,15) This is biblical faith!

During this festive time of Thanksgiving, why not join the one leper that said thank you. Don’t remain with the nine others! Take time to “run back” and tell our beautiful Savior, “Thank you!”

Happy Thanksgiving! †

Thoughts to Ponder—

“Indeed, the fact that Christ is a part of the Godhead, possessing all the attributes of Divinity, being the equal of the Father in all respects . . . is the only force there is in the atonement. It is this alone which makes redemption a possibility. . . If Christ were not Divine, then we should have only a human sacrifice...God only can redeem. Thanks be to God that we are saved “through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily . . .”

(E.J. Waggoner,
Christ and His Righteousness, p. 44.

For more on this topic,
please listen to *The Sufferings of A God* from
our Sermons/Downloads page under
Resources.)

MINISTRY UPDATE

Adventist Christian Fellowship / Central Las Cruces SDA Church Las Cruces, NM

Light once again dawned on our darkened perceptions of God and His character of love, but this time it was in New Mexico! We had a wonderful weekend experience as two churches came together in one town to spend a weekend focusing on God's self-sacrificing and self-abandoning love for each of us. Many plans are being laid to share this good news with the community surrounding these churches. I so look forward to seeing what God is going to do in Las Cruces as we lift high the cross for all to see the truth about our God!

Canadian College University – Lacombe, Alberta

This September, I had the pleasure of sharing with our Canadian students for Canadian College University's (our Adventist university in the Canadian Union) fall week of prayer. What made this experience truly amazing is that attendance to the University's week of prayer is strictly "voluntary." The students are not required to come to the presentations, but once the word got out about what other students were experiencing through the presentations of the gospel each morning and evening, students began attending in droves. This fall week of prayer was reported as being the largest attended week of prayer in the history of the university, with over 90 percent of the student body coming forward and making a decision for Jesus on the closing Sabbath. I wish you could have been there to see the truly heart-stirring response of those young adults to the Gospel as many of them encountered God's life-changing love for them for the very first time. You can listen to the presentations given during this week for yourself on our website on our Sermons/Downloads page under Resources.



Glendale SDA Church & Glenview Academy— Glendale, AZ

"One week in October" is how it all began three years ago. I've been in Glendale for the last three Octobers now, and this year we spent one whole week taking time to focus specifically on Calvary and what God was accomplishing for us there.

I've rarely felt the clarity that we achieved during this week as we studied together the greatest single revelation of God's love for this lost word—the Cross. These presentations will be available soon for free download for any who are interested in understanding more clearly what Calvary was all about.

Also this year, while in Glendale, I was asked to share with the Academy there in the morning the precious good news of our Father's love. Morning after morning, we addressed the young peoples' perceptions of what they felt God was like, while being open to letting God show us the truth concerning Himself. Each morning, the light became brighter and brighter, finally climaxing on Friday, with almost the entire student body making a surrender to God to allow His great love to be the controlling influence in their lives. If any of the students from Glendale happen to be reading, I look forward to being with you again for graduation next May. Til then, keep your eyes on the Cross! It is there and there alone that we see the truth most clearly. May the light of the bright beams of Calvary shine on you all!

Pacific Health Center / Bakersfield SDA Church – Bakersfield, CA

Last month, I was privileged to share our Life Unlimited series in Bakersfield, CA. We had over 80 non-Adventists from the community attend, with many of those making decisions for Jesus for the very first time. Over 20 of those



made decisions to follow Jesus in relation to the greatest Gospel teaching device ever given to humanity—the Sabbath.

After attending both Sabbath presentations as well as hearing the good news concerning Hell, one dear lady came to me excitedly that evening with tears of joy in her eyes. She said, “Thank you so much for sharing all this with us. I’ve never seen God like this before! My life will never be the same!”

A number of Bible studies were started during this ten day series, with folks from the community surrounding the church. I look forward to watching what God will do in the lives of these dear souls as they come to see God and His love for them, many for the first time. Keep up the good work, Bakersfield!

Good News Tour –

I would like to personally thank the Good News Tour for the invitation to come and be a guest speaker at their Portland Convention this fall. I had the opportunity to share two presentations during the convention: one on why God, if He is love, would allow so much suffering on this planet, and the other on clarifying our misconceptions concerning God’s prevenient forgiveness. I was also blessed to meet many folks who have been listening online and have had their lives changed by God’s love as revealed through RHM’s online sermons. Brad, Dorothee, Tim, Manuel, and Marco, may God continue to use you to “lighten the earth with His glory!” We need many voices from varied experiences and backgrounds, in a variety of ways, heralding the call to this world, “Behold Your God!” May the “perfect day” come quickly. (Proverbs 4:18) †



In Isaiah’s day, the spiritual understanding of mankind was dark through misapprehension of God. Long had Satan sought to lead men to look upon their Creator as the author of sin and suffering and death. Those whom he had thus deceived imagined that God was hard and exacting. They regarded Him as watching to denounce and condemn, unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there was a legal excuse for not helping him. The law of love by which heaven is ruled had been misrepresented by the arch-deceiver as a restriction upon men’s happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they should be glad to escape. He declared that its precepts could not be obeyed and that the penalties of transgression were bestowed arbitrarily.

In losing sight of the true character of Jehovah, the Israelites were without excuse. Often had God revealed Himself to them as one “full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” (Psalm 86:15) “When Israel was a child,” He testified, “then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt.” (Hosea 11:1)

Tenderly had the Lord dealt with Israelites in their deliverance from Egyptian bondage and in their journey to the Promised Land. “In all their affliction, He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them: in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old.” (Isaiah 63:9)

. . . He imparted to Moses, in the form of a prophecy, a knowledge of His purpose concerning the final triumph of Israel. “As truly as I live,” He declared, “all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.” (Verses 20, 21) God’s glory, His character, His merciful kindness and tender love—that which Moses had pleaded on behalf of Israel—were to be revealed to all mankind. And this promise of Jehovah was made doubly sure; it was confirmed by an oath. As surely as God lives and reigns, His glory should be declared “among the heathen, His wonders among all people.” (Psalm 96:3)

It was concerning the future fulfillment of this prophecy that Isaiah had heard the shining seraphim singing before the throne, “The whole earth is full of His glory.” Isaiah 6:3. The prophet, confident of the certainty of these words, himself afterward boldly declared of those who were bowing down to the images of wood and stone, “They shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.” (Isaiah 35:2)

Today this prophecy is meeting rapid fulfillment.

(Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 313)

TESTIMONIES . . .

"I'm so thankful that you were there again this year. God knew I needed to hear what He has commissioned you to share. My life is going to be different because of that experience. Thank you for sharing God's love. The part that hit me the most was when you said how Jesus chose me instead of Heaven as He hung there on that cross. I plan to share that with my church..."—KH

*"First off, I just want to thank you so much for allowing God to use you in such a powerful way. I'm a missionary in Korea and a friend from _____ emailed me and told me about your website, what a blessing it's been. I listed to your Redwood 07, and it was so encouraging. About *Sounds of Rain*, I see the rain coming in the distance, and it must be 'cause across the world the message is getting out. And soon the world will know the truth about our God!"—T*

"We pray blessings and more blessings on the preaching He has given you and the messages you send out every day! Thank you

for taking the time to do this! Reading the one from October 11, "And the Testimony is this, that God has given us Eternal life, and this life is in His Son"—I never saw it like this before—a great verse to use for people who don't believe God really Loves them or wants to save them. Why is it so hard to believe He gives first, before anything on our part? Keep it up! It gets clearer and clearer all the time!"—DC

"...I feel as though my life will truly never be the same again ..."

"I didn't realize how extensive that love was, how gentle and forgiving. Thank you so much!"—KC & SW

"I'm ashamed to admit that I haven't picked up my Bible in five years. This morning, I opened up my email and read your devotional. I was so moved I went to the bookshelf and opened it again. Thank you for reintroducing me to a Savior who loves me with such self-abandonment. I cannot thank you enough for brining me back to my Friend."—Anon.

"I've never heard anything like this before. Thank you so much. I feel as if my life will truly never be the same again. How could I have lived this long without knowing about God's Extravagant Love for me? Thank you, thank you, thank you!"—Anon.

"My friend introduced me to your material recently, and I have to admit that at first, I mistakenly thought you were simply another preacher espousing the moral influence theory only. But now I see I was totally wrong about you and your ministry. You are offering a perspective which is greater than a mere forensic model, and yet more persuasive than mere moral influence. You're sharing a "third option," as you say. This is truly amazing! Why have we not seen this before? May we all come to see His character more clearly. Amen!"—JC

"I've been listening online for two months now. I don't know you, and you've never met me, but I want you to know that 'seeing' God's love the way it is portrayed in your messages has changed my life. Words cannot thank you enough."—HS †

CALENDAR

December 8, 2007

Lewisburg SDA Church
Lewisburg, WV
304.647.5925

January 11-12, 2008

Pullman Community Worship Center
Pullman, WA
509 332 8782

January 18-19, 2008

Charleston SDA Church
Charleston, WV
479.754.0675

January 25-26, 2008

Penn Valley SDA Church
Penn Valley, CA
530.432.2479

February 8-9, 2008

Campion SDA Church
Loveland, CO
970.667.7403

February 15-24, 2008

Penn Valley SDA Church
Penn Valley, CA
530.432.2479

February 29-March 1, 2008

Westchester Korean SDA Church
Yonkers, NY
347-683-0157

March 7-8, 2008

Sunset Oaks SDA Church
Rocklin, CA
916.771.3869

March 14-23, 2008

Woodside SDA Church
Sacramento, CA
916.549.5656

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