DEAR LIGHT BEARERS

2026 ANNUAL REPORT



Artwork by Peculiar Olenloa


40
YEARS OF
GOSPEL
MINISTRY

Dear Light Bearers,

This year, we're sharing our annual report a little differently: through letters from people you've helped us reach in 2026.

They all begin with "Dear Light Bearers" because a Light Bearer is more than just our team. It includes you, too.

In their own words, people share how their understanding of God is changing for the better. It is a glimpse into what happens after *Truth Link* lessons are shipped, an Arise program ends, or a Gospel Conversations episode is released.

It is a privilege to share these letters with you as we close out 2026. As you read, we hope you recognize your part in the work and find encouragement in what God is doing through us all.

You'll also find numbers and statistics in these pages. They'll show you how we steward the resources entrusted to us and the direct impact of your support.

You sustain the daily work of our ministry long before a story reaches these pages. Your faithfulness to the mission carries it forward. Thank you for your prayers, partnership, and generosity.

With gratitude,
Don Otis
CEO, Light Bearers

Dear Light Bearers,

When I applied to Arise Finland, it felt like my final shot at Christianity.

I was 27, living in London after a year of traveling through Europe. In many ways, it had been an incredible adventure. But that January, I was alone in a cold room, depressed and ashamed of patterns I couldn't seem to break. I had grown up in church. I never doubted that God existed or that He was good. Around people who knew me, I played the "good Christian." But away from them, I lived differently. Eventually, calling myself a Christian felt dishonest.

My sister had attended Arise Finland the year before and encouraged me to apply. It would cost less than staying in London, and I felt I had nothing to lose. Those weren't especially inspiring reasons to go, but they got me there.
I expected little more than a quiet setting and good food. What I found there was so much more, and every part was so intentional: people I could open up to, staff who cared about me, and teaching that helped me understand God more clearly.

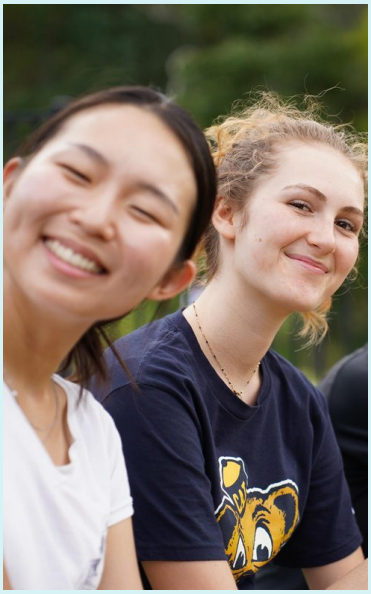
My biggest takeaway? God doesn't just tolerate me. He actively enjoys my existence. I had spent so long feeling ashamed of who I was but after Arise, I began to believe He wanted to know me, and I wanted to know Him. Faith began to feel personal. I started to experience emotional healing and break patterns I had lived with for years. I could be open about what I was facing and work through it with community around me.

I arrived wondering whether I could still call myself a Christian. Now I have something I want to share. Thank you for making space for someone like me: uncertain, ashamed, but wanting to give faith one more chance. I'm grateful I went. And I'm grateful to you.

Callan
Melbourne, Australia









Editor's Note

This year, 92% of Arise students in Australia and Finland were 35 or younger—young adults setting aside time to study Scripture and explore what they believe. Alongside students of every age, they came to deepen their understanding of God and make faith their own.

Dear Light Bearers,

I knew Jesus loved me but I still felt I had to earn His approval.

I grew up in Africa in a very traditional church setting. My parents made sure I went to church, but I didn't have much guidance at home for studying the Bible. By adulthood, my relationship with Jesus was rooted partly in love and partly in fear. I was constantly measuring whether I was good enough, and I often judged other people by the same standards. It was hard to offer grace when I struggled to receive it myself. Then I attended the Arise Intensive in Houston.

That weekend challenged beliefs I had carried for years. Why did I follow Jesus? What did I believe about Him? And how did those beliefs affect the way I treated myself and others?

When I got home, I watched pretty much everything I could find: *Edify*, *Gospel Conversations*, *Dwell*, and more. Sometimes I'd think about a sermon or discussion for days. Like when Angelo talked about how being born again in Christ is neuroplasticity. That idea reminds me change is possible, especially when I find myself slipping into old patterns.

I'm still unlearning old beliefs. Little by little, I'm seeing God, myself, and others differently. I started turning favorite Bible phrases into T-shirt designs. I haven't sold any. I just love creating them. They give me a way to express what I'm learning.

You may never meet many of the people who watch these videos. But I'm one of the people on the other side of the screen. Thank you for making that weekend in Houston possible. You've helped me return to Scripture, question old assumptions, and see Jesus more clearly.

With love,
Solani
Texas, United States







Editor's Note

Viewers have spent 11 million minutes watching content on our YouTube this year—the equivalent of 21 years of nonstop viewing. Each sermon or discussion gives people something to return to and share as they explore Scripture and discover more about God's love.

Dear Light Bearers,

My wife and I talked like we were Christians but were living for our own gratification, going to raves and festivals, drinking and smoking pot and hurtling towards self destruction. I feared I wasn't righteous enough to be saved, but I had no idea how to become good enough. In my mind, Jesus stood between me and God, trying to convince Him I was on the guest list and not to destroy me. It was easier to hide in parties than face the agony of my own insufficiency.

In September, I sent up a half-prayer/half-thought: if God wanted my life to change, He could do something about it. Soon afterward, I looked up a name I'd heard tossed around: Ty Gibson. His sermon series *A Lingering Scent* sparked something new: an image of a Savior and a God who loved me. By November, I had stopped drinking. Meanwhile, *Gospel Conversations* kept appearing on YouTube. In February 2026, my wife and I started watching it. As we listened, we began to feel that smoking pot was getting in the way of our relationship with God. On April 5, we quit. For the first time in 26 years, I was totally sober.

In episode two, Angelo described seeing Jesus on the cross for him personally. After I stopped smoking, I had a similar experience. I saw Christ lifted up for my sins and understood that I could do nothing to earn His love or my salvation. He had freely given both. We watched those episodes five, six, even eight times. I shared them with our kids, neighbors, church members—anyone who would listen. By the time season two came out, our whole family was studying along.

There's a new peace in our lives, an energy for living, and an eagerness to serve. What amazes me is that I had tried to "live righteously" on my own for years and kept failing. Through these messages, my family and I saw what I had somehow missed all these years: the true character of God. Thank you for helping bring these conversations into our home. I love you, brothers and sisters in Christ! My prayer is that your crowns will be adorned with many stars.

Jobe
California, United States







Editor's Note

More than 1,800 people have joined our **Facebook group** to ask questions and share what they're discovering with one another. Click here to join them.

Dear Light Bearers,

Not long ago, my friend Juan Moisés and I spent hours hiking through pouring rain and dense jungle in the mountains of Costa Rica. We were heading to a Cabécar [kah-BEH-kar] village, carrying Bibles and a message we hoped the people would welcome. We work with Alas de Vida, sharing the gospel in Central America. For the past several years, you have provided us with *Truth Link* Bible studies and Bibles to give to the people we meet. One of those people is Carlos.

Carlos is a community leader who invited us into the temple to speak on one of our first visits. Before we began, he told the group he had met religious people who looked down on others, as though their beliefs made them better than everyone else. But he said we had come with humility, and he wanted to hear what we had to share. We opened our Bibles to Revelation 14 and talked about worshiping God as our Creator. When we finished, Carlos told the group that our message came from the Bible and invited us back the next week.

When we returned, Carlos told us about a dream he'd had that week. In the dream, he stood at the temple entrance. Juan and I were inside, holding candles and handing them to people as they came in. A man told Carlos to listen to what we were teaching, put it into practice, and share it with others. The dream moved Carlos deeply. He told the community he believed God wanted them to keep studying the Bible with us. People began writing down Bible passages and asking questions. We've been going back to study with them ever since.

You put those Bibles in our hands, and now Carlos and his friends can keep reading and sharing what they learn about Jesus even when we're away. Thank you for helping us share the gospel with them.

Donald
Sharabata, Costa Rica



















Editor's Note

A Bible or study guide lets people learn on their own, talking it over with family, or sharing it with a neighbor. Since 1985, we've printed and shipped 763,076,084 pieces of free gospel literature worldwide.

Dear Light Bearers,

I had never felt such loving kindness and safety as I experienced at Convocation... Our oldest daughter attended with us. She is eighteen and joined our family through foster care. It was a real testament to her that there were so many kind people, something she hasn't experienced a lot in her life. — Anonymous

Convocation renewed in me a desire to be proactive about sharing Jesus. — Ellen

Convocation helped me release my anxiety about my salvation. — Heidi

My head knew I was a child of God, but my heart was struggling with it. I learned at Convocation that I am a child of God and He has seated me in heavenly places, and my heart is at peace now. — Leslie

Convocation has impacted my adult children, and they have stayed in the church because of it and your Christ-centered messages. — Bonnie

I've always seen God the way you presented Him at Convocation. But I've also worried about the Bible text that says, "Away from Me. I don't know you." I know my sins. Why would He want me in heaven? Now I think His love accepts me with all my faults. — Barbara

After Convocation, I feel more equipped to help others understand God's love better. — Lisa

Before I came to Convocation, I thought God just loved me in a generic and collective sense. Now I know that He loves me in an exclusive, personal sense, and His love is limitless. — Manuel













Editor's Note

More than 1,000 people attended Convocation for four days of Bible study, worship, and fellowship. As these testimonies show, some left with peace about their salvation, others with a deeper sense of God's love. Your support helped make that time together possible.

In 2026, you helped us reach

595,000

people with the good news of God's love.

Based on Facebook and Instagram reach, January–October 2026.

Many took a next step:
595,000 saw our message
12,366 followed or subscribed
479 signed up for an event for the first time

And people in 87 countries watched Light Bearers on YouTube.

This year, you put *8 million* Bible study guides into people's hands in *8 countries*, trained *2,290* Arise students, welcomed *12,366* new subscribers and followers, and *1.4 million* times, someone pressed play on a message about God's love.

You also sent us to 8 countries and 16 states in person to preach and teach. Thank you. None of it happens without you.

What your support made possible

Q1
JAN–MAR

- **Arise Intensive, Loma Linda**
  406 attendees · Jan 23–25
- **Arise Australia**
  3-month program begins · Feb 2
- **With DA**
  Live study of Christ's Object Lessons · Feb

Q2
APR–JUN

- **Gospel Conversations, Season 2**
  10 weekly episodes · Apr–Jun
- **Arise Australia graduation**
  36 graduates · May 2
- **Convocation, Oregon**
  1,150 attendees · Jun 24–27

Q3
JUL–SEP

- **Arise Finland**
  3-month program begins · Aug 13
- **Arise Intensive, Portland**
  204 attendees · Sep 4–6
- **In Heavenly Places**
  Convocation series released weekly · from Sep 11

Q4
OCT–DEC

- **Arise Intensive, Argentina**
  University event · Oct 23–25
- **Arise Finland graduation**
  37 graduates · Nov 7
- **Gospel Conversations S3 filmed**
  Colorado · Nov 16–20

All year: 297,000 Truth Link sets, 20,000 Bibles and 6,000 books to 8 countries

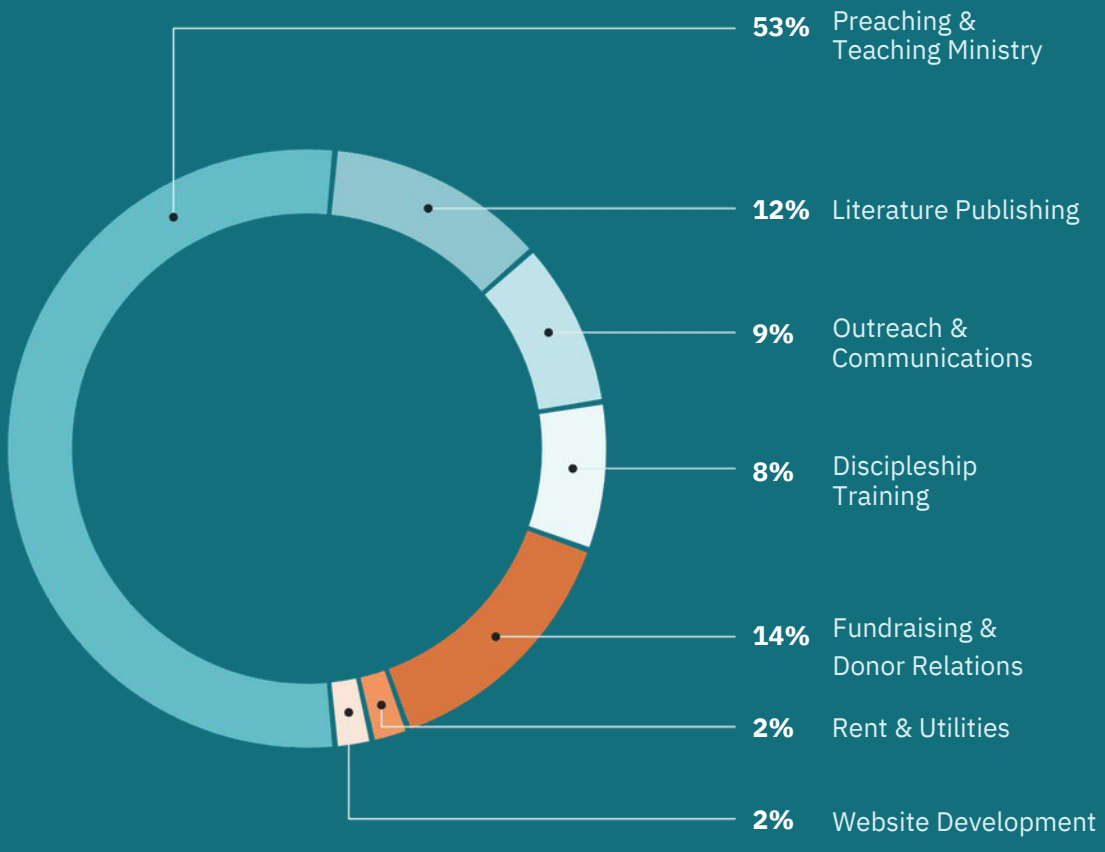
WHAT'S NEXT IN 2027

Dates subject to change

- **Feb 1** Arise Australia
- **Apr 2** Gospel Conversations S3
- **Apr 30** Arise Intensive, Colorado
- **Jun 23–26** Convocation, Oregon
- **Aug 12** Arise Finland
- **Oct 22** Arise Intensive, Minnesota

Maximizing every dollar for eternal impact

At Light Bearers, we are committed to being faithful stewards of every gift entrusted to us.



Thank you. Your generosity and prayers make this work possible. We're grateful to have you as a part of the Light Bearers community.

FROM OUR CO-FOUNDER

Dear Light Bearers,

One of the beautiful things about the gospel is that we can share it while we're still discovering its beauty ourselves. We can open the Bible with someone even when we have questions. God's love can still be changing us as we share it. That is how we bear light.

Reading these letters, I'm struck by how personal this all is. Callan needed to know God hadn't given up on him. Carlos needed a Bible to read and share. Countless others needed room to reconsider what they believe about God. You are part of these stories. Your prayers and generosity provided the Bibles, the classes, and the conversations. Thank you for being our fellow light bearer.

With your support, 12,366 new people heard the good news through Light Bearers in 2026. In 2027, we aim to double that number by strengthening our content, curriculum, and live events. We also plan to send 8.1 million pieces of gospel literature to 10 countries. We're raising $1 million to help make this possible. Would you join us with a special year-end gift?

- $1 helps us reach someone new online
- $2 sends a set of *Truth Link* study guides overseas
- $80 provides 50 sets of *Truth Link*
- $500 sponsors a week of tuition at Arise
- $2,000 sponsors an entire podcast episode

Your gift prepares us for the year ahead. To give, go to lightbearers.org/give, or click the link on the next page.

I'm grateful we get to keep sharing God's love together. Thank you for bearing His light with us.

Warmly,
Ty Gibson
Co-founder, Light Bearers



Be the reason someone writes back next year

Help us raise $1 million by December 31! To make your year-end gift, click below.

Give now →



ARISE

See the Bible as one story. *Discover your place in it.*

Deepen your understanding of Scripture and grow confident in sharing your faith—with a weekend Intensive, self-paced online study, or a three-month discipleship program in Australia or Finland.

WEEKEND	ONLINE	3 MONTHS
Intensive	At your own pace	Australia or Finland

Choose your experience →

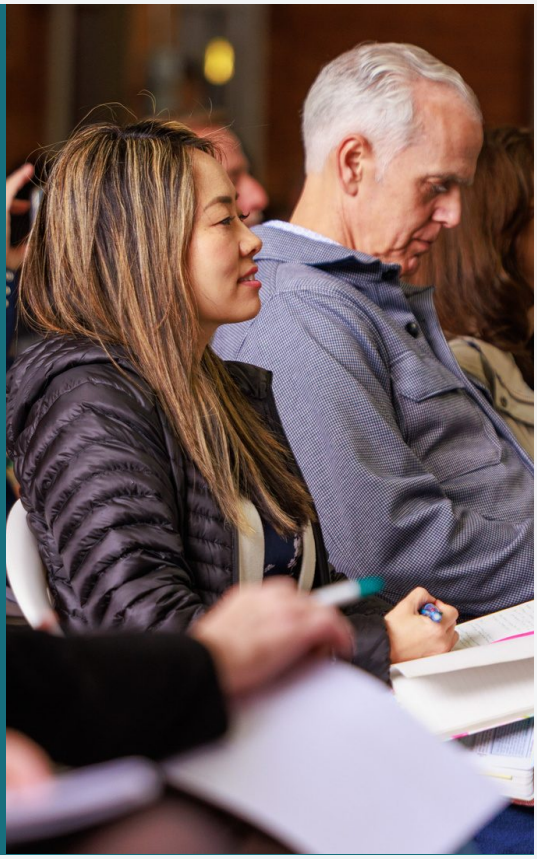
CONVOCATION 2027

Make room *for renewal.*

Join Light Bearers for Bible teaching, worship, and community. Take time to reconnect with God and find encouragement alongside others growing in faith.

JUNE 23–26, 2027 · OREGON

Sign up for event updates →





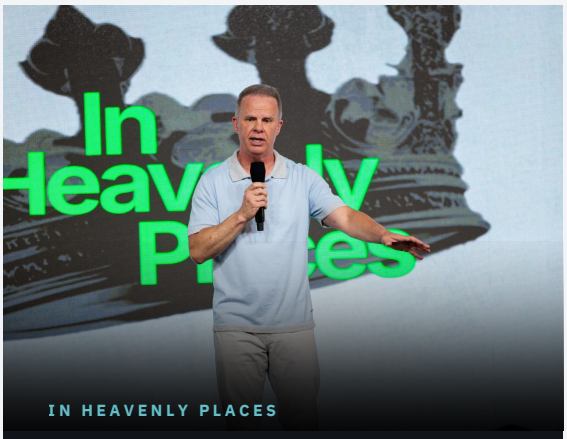
GOSPEL *Conversations*

Watch Seasons 1 and 2 of *Gospel Conversations* on our YouTube channel

Watch now →

Also available on:

Apple Podcasts Spotify



IN HEAVENLY PLACES

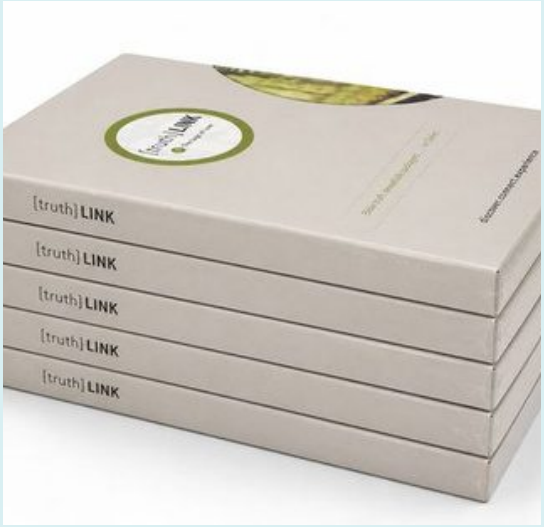
Discover who you *are in Christ.*

Explore Ephesians in this teaching series from Convocation 2026. Discover how being loved and accepted in Christ changes the way you see yourself and live each day.

Watch the series →

27

printed Bible studies



TRUTH LINK

Discover the love behind every *Bible truth.*

Explore 27 printed Bible studies that connect the teachings of Scripture to God's love. Study on your own, with a friend, or in a small group.

Order your set now →



WITH DA

Make time to *grow in faith.*

Join David Asscherick for a live study series that invites you to read, reflect, and deepen your understanding alongside others.

Watch With DA – Christ's Object Lessons →

LIGHT BEARERS RESOURCES

Take the good news *home.*

- **Books** →
- **Bible studies** →
- **DVDs & CDs** →
- **Free downloads** →

For your own study, your small group, or a friend who's searching.

Shop resources here →



LEGACY GIVING

Leave a legacy *of light.*

A planned gift—through your will, trust, or retirement account—keeps the gospel reaching people for generations to come. It may also bring tax and financial benefits for you and your family. We'd be honored to talk it through with you.

For more information, please contact us at donations@lightbearers.org or by calling 877-585-1111.

God likes you.

LIGHT BEARERS

lightbearers.org