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*Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet: The Bible for Today*

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## Introduction

### The Bible for Today

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe that God shows Himself to us in this sinful world. There are many ways He shows Himself to us. But we believe that the Bible is the greatest example of how God shows Himself to us. The Bible is the greatest way that sinners have to learn about God.

The Bible makes claims about itself that very few books ever do. The Bible also comes with a great amount of evidence (proof) to back up (support) those claims. The proof is built right into the Bible. This proof includes wonderful prophecies (future events). This proof also helps us trust the history of the Bible. But perhaps the greatest proof for the Bible's claims is the influence (power) the Bible has on the lives of people. All the proof from prophecy and history is there for us to help us believe. But the most powerful proof is found in the way the Bible brings hope, joy, and promise to people thousands of years after it was written. For many thousands of years now, people all over the world have found in the Bible the answers to their deepest needs. And why not? After all, the Bible is the greatest example of the only One who can meet those needs—our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But some people have challenged (doubted) the Bible's truth. Is the Bible really God's Word? Does the Creator of the universe really speak through its pages? What scientific proof backs up what the Bible says? What does archaeology<sup>1</sup> say about the Bible? We may believe that the Bible is inspired. But is it useful to us who live in the twenty-first century? If it is useful, how and why is it useful?

These, and more, are some of the questions we will discuss in our Bible study guide for this quarter. We just as easily could have called this guide *Why I Believe in the Bible*. This is because the authors show why they trust the Bible.

Also, during this quarter, we try to show just how useful the Bible is to us today. It is amazing that the Bible was written at least 1,700 years before doctors finally discovered (learned) it was good to wash their hands before surgery! The Bible has power to change our lives for good. In the Bible, we find some of the greatest proof for how useful it is to us.

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<sup>1</sup>archaeology—the science of digging up relics (old things) that have been buried under the ground for many years.

Jonathan Kuntaraf, also known as Oey Giok Kun, is from Indonesia. At the time of this writing, he was associate director of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries department at the General Conference. His wife, Dr. Kathleen Liwidjaja, was an associate director of the Health Ministries department at the General Conference. They have two grown children.