

# MISSION UPDATE

JUNE 2016

## GO AND SPEED NO MORE

BY DAVID ASSCHERICK

**LET ME TELL YOU** about one of my least favorite Australian realities: speed cameras. Ugh, just saying those two words makes me feel ill. You see, in the US, where I'm from, you receive a speeding ticket by being pulled over by an actual officer and given an actual ticket. It's still no fun, but it is decidedly more, well, *human*.

Perhaps like you, I've been pulled over by a police officer when I've been guilty of speeding. There's always that feeling of your heart dropping when you see the flashing lights in the mirror. Then there's the embarrassment of being on the side of the road while everyone drives by thinking the same thing you think when you see someone on the side of the road with a police officer. Then there's the fine.

Or maybe not.

Perhaps like me, you've been given a mere warning. What a feeling that is! I should know, it's happened to me several times. In fact, it used to happen to me pretty regularly. You see, my brother is a police officer in my hometown, so whenever I'd get pulled over the officer would ask to see my license. Then they'd see it: "Asscherick."

Then this: "Say, are you related to Wayne?"

Then my answer: "Yes, he's my older brother."

Then this: "Alright, please slow down and have a good day."

The officer would hand me my license, go back to his car, and drive away. This may not have been the best thing for my driving, I admit, but it definitely made me feel connected. It wasn't my merit, sweet-talking, or anything else that got me out of several deserved tickets, it was my older brother.

According to Scripture, Jesus is our older brother (Hebrew 2:11). We are connected. There is Someone who knows us and who loves us in high places—heavenly places, in fact (see Ephesians!). He is merciful and forgiving and kind. And He is King (Revelation 19:16).

This is no excuse to sin. Let's be clear about that.

But unlike Australian speed cameras (where you simply get a ticket in the mail from a camera you didn't even know you'd passed), there is something very *human* about it all. There is One who not only loves us, He is like us! He understands us. He sympathizes with us (see Hebrews 4:15-16).

Are you in need of mercy? Of grace? Of forgiveness?

Your Older Brother bears your name. You are connected.

Go and speed no more. 



## SOMETHING TO SAY AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

BY TY GIBSON

**MINISTRY NEEDS TO HAPPEN** everywhere—even among the educated elite. Evangelists recognize that the highly educated are the most difficult class to reach with the gospel, generally speaking. I delivered six lectures recently at Princeton University, embarking upon the task feeling the weight of this fact.

Knowledge, like wealth, is a two-edged sword: the more I have, the less needy I may appear in my own eyes. “Education” itself is a tricky concept. Who is educated and who is not?

According to the apostle Paul, “If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to

know. But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him” (1 Corinthians 8:2-3). Theoretical knowledge can create the illusion that one knows more than one actually does. Of course, this is not an argument in favor of ignorance, but rather in favor of humility, and in favor of a different kind of knowing. Paul does not recommend stupidity, but he does recommend that our knowledge be grounded in God’s love.

The fact is, empathy is the highest form of intelligence. The most educated person in any room is the one who can make the most wounded person in the room feel seen and accepted. I have a friend who only completed the 6th grade, but he’s a relational genius who skillfully opens people’s hearts to face their fears and move forward in healing. I know another guy who has a PhD, but he’s so ignorant regarding the ways of love that he regularly crushes his wife and kids with insensitive words and actions. The first guy can’t do long division, but he can read people’s moods as if he has a PhD in empathy. The second guy can explain Einstein’s theory of

relativity, but he can't understand why his wife gets upset over his "factual observations" about her best friend's height to weight ratio.

The simple biblical declaration, "God is love and whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him," carries more explanatory power for making sense of life than any other concept. It never fails to amaze me that whenever I begin to explain that human beings are designed to receive and give love, everyone leans in with interest. Super intelligent, highly educated individuals are no exception. So when I recently stood before professors and students at Princeton University, I spoke of the highest and best knowledge the human mind can contemplate.

... we who know God's heart have something to say that will draw in the most educated people in the world.

I spoke of God's love.

I'd be lying to say I wasn't a bit nervous to be teaching in this erudite academic environment. At one point I had to take a few deep breaths to calm the butterflies in my stomach. But the fact is, I am so confident in the unparalleled beauty and wisdom of God's love that I was able to lunge past my fear and enthusiastically tell what I know. And to my utter delight, the topic captivated the attention of people who know more than I'll ever know about string theory and dark matter and a whole lot else. Over the course of three nights, our attendance increased from about 40 to 80 to 120.

Why all the interest?

Well, because all of us long for God's love more than anything else, even before we know that's what we long for. And when someone begins to articulate that longing, we can't help but want to have it satisfied.

Two physics professors, from whom I would be fortunate to learn even a fraction of what they know, slipped into the CRAVE seminar. After the meeting, they paused to say that they really appreciated the content. They must have meant it, because they returned the next night and expressed regret

that they could not attend the final sessions on day three of the event. That's cool, because if you teach physics at Princeton you are in the top 5% of brainiacs on the planet and you are not easily impressed. So I was elated that they were positive rather than dismissive.

What this says to me is that we who know God's heart have something to say that will draw in the most educated people in the world. We are sitting on a treasure chest full of insight that every thinking mind and feeling heart will find attractive, if we will proclaim the message with a friendly, humble, non-combative spirit. It is our calling to communicate God's good character to them in our attitude as well as with our words. Our tendency to approach unbelievers as opponents rather than as fellow human beings trying to make sense of reality is one of the most effective arguments against the gospel. We should relate with genuine appreciation for what our world's educators and scientists contribute to the advancement of quality of life, and then, in that climate of friendly respect, we will likely find their minds open to consider what we have to say about our God. 🕊



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# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

## JUNE 1-18

*Startling Prophecies for Today*  
 Cascade Adventist Church  
 Bend, OR  
 www.cascadesda.org / 541.749.9005  
 James Rafferty

## JUNE 8-12

GYC West Conference  
 Weimar, CA  
 www.gycwest.com  
 Jeffrey Rosario

## JUNE 17-18

Texas Youth Conference  
 Keene, TX  
 youngtexasadventist.org /  
 817.790.2255, Ext. 2202  
 Ty Gibson

## JUNE 4

Santa Clara Adventist Church  
 Eugene, OR  
 541.688.5081  
 Fred Bischoff

## JUNE 12-16

Minnesota Conference of Seventh-day  
 Adventists Camp Meeting  
 Hutchinson, MN  
 www.mnsda.com / 763.424.8923  
 Ty Gibson

## JUNE 22-25

1888 National Conference  
 Weimar, CA  
 www.1888msc.org / 866.954.4523  
 Fred Bischoff

see more events at [lightbearers.org](http://lightbearers.org)



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