

MISSION UPDATE

MAY 2017

DRAFT AWAY, PART 2

DAVID ASSCHERICK

I recently did the Rainbow Ride, a local 102.5-mile (165 km) race. It was my first large group ride, and it was awesome! The ride starts with a steep and winding climb, followed by a fast descent, and about 30 miles (50 km) of relatively flat roads.

I got past the first big climb and descent feeling strong. But there was a problem, a big one. I was alone.

I pedaled hard and fast (for me) and my cycle computer read 22 mph (35 km/h). My heart rate raced unsustainably high. I knew there was no way I could keep this up for another five hours. I could see a group of 15 cyclists not too far ahead, but they were pulling away fast. No chance of catching them now.

I struggled on for 15 minutes. Then he showed up: Bob.

I did not know Bob, but when he caught me, he slowed a bit and said, “hop on” (translation: “follow me”) with such a cheery positivity that I immediately obliged.

In cycling vernacular, Bob is a “beast.” He’s big, strong, and fast. He was slower up that first big hill, but the flats were his bread and butter. Suddenly, my heart rate had dropped 40 bpm *and* my speed went up nearly 7 mph (11km/h).

Bob changed everything. He was stronger, fitter, faster, and more experienced. He plowed ahead merrily while I just held on for the ride. This impossibly long ride suddenly became not only possible, but downright *enjoyable*. Cycling inches behind him—*drafting* as it’s called (see “Draft Away, Part 1”)—made a world of difference. It’s impossible to appreciate how amazing this technique is until you’ve experienced the relief it brings yourself.

Bob saved my race. And in a very similar way, Jesus saved my life.

Friend, stop struggling alone and get behind the One who is stronger, fitter, faster, and more experienced than you. Let Him lead out and charge into the wind.

He says to us—also with an irresistible and cheery positivity—“Follow me!”

Life Lesson 1: Remember who the Leader is.

Life Lesson 2: Unlike drafting in cycling, you can *never* get too close to Jesus!

My own translation: “Let us cycle with patience the race that is set before us, drafting behind Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

Draft away, child. 



RUNNING BACK AND FORTH

TY GIBSON

HELLO FRIENDS OF LIGHT BEARERS!

There are so many exciting things going on here at the ministry, I can hardly keep up. But I'd rather be busy than bored. I'm sure you feel the same. I recently read in Ezekiel the mind-blowing fact that we're not alone in our busyness:

"The living creatures ran back and forth . . ." (1:14).

"The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel" (1:16).

So, get this: there are angelic beings in heaven, and what are they doing? Running back and forth. They are so busy executing tasks that they move as fast as possible. And they must be highly organized, because their "workings" are pictured as intersecting wheels of activity.

That's how the work of Light Bearers feels at times—actually *all* the time. And it is such a joy to be part of this team. Allow me to share with you a few of the things God has us doing presently.

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

As I write, I have just returned from holding a series of meetings in Norway. Young adults packed out the building to hear the preaching of God's Word. Interestingly, Norway was recently voted the happiest country on earth, but that is largely measured by economic abundance. The fact is, Norway has some of the highest depression and suicide rates in the world. Apparently, material wealth is not enough

for humanity. I wish you could've seen these young adults, one after another, tell how they were dramatically impacted by the good news of God's unfailing love. But Norway is just one place God has opened up. We will also be preaching this year in Texas, Alabama, Nebraska, Colorado, Canada, Spain, Australia, California, and many other places. Please keep these ventures in your prayers.

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A NEW REVELATION

James Rafferty, together with Ivor Myers, just finished filming a new 73-part series of studies that goes through the entirety of Revelation. These brothers rolled up their sleeves and went to work, which resulted in amazing insights into John's prophecies. Check out the program, *Salvation in Symbols and Signs*, on Saturdays at 4:30 PM (PDT) on 3ABN and on the Dare to Dream channel every day at 4:30 PM (PDT).

ARISE

As you know, twice a year we run a discipleship school called ARISE: once in Australia, around spring, and once in the United States, in the fall. (By the way, we are currently accepting applications for the 2017 USA course. Go to lightbearers.org/arise for more details.)

Students, consisting of mostly young adults, gather from all over the world to study through the entire story of Scripture and do ministry in the local community. I recently finished teaching for ARISE Australia 2017 and it was wonderful. Nine of the students in the class are completely new converts to Christianity.

I wish I could tell you about each of them, but I'll just mention Kaitlyn. At 19, she has experienced a lot of pain in life, but she was recently introduced to Jesus, and ARISE. Though she felt reluctant to attend, curiosity drove her forward. She sat in the front row, new Bible open, looking for guidance as she scrambled for Isaiah or Romans—it's all new to her. She had two journals, one for taking notes and one to draw

pictures of what she's learning. Kaitlyn is so engaged, she was repeatedly jumping to my point before I'd get there. Her whole life is being revolutionized by the knowledge of Christ's love for her.

Of course, there are many who can't attend ARISE on-site. That's why we are launching ARISE Online, which will offer our full curriculum for anybody who would like to take the course from home. Keep on the lookout because it's coming soon.

STORYLINE & THE INTERNSHIP

As an ongoing evangelistic mission in Eugene, Oregon, we run Storyline Seventh-day Adventist Church. After students graduate from ARISE, some enroll in our internship program. For six to twelve months, we engage them in ongoing classroom studies and community ministry. This year, we have seven interns working full time with Storyline.

CONVOCATION

Right now we're gearing up for this year's Light Bearers Convocation, set for July 4-8, which we're calling, *Majoring in the Minors*. We'll take an in-depth look at the minor prophets and discover their major gospel themes and relevance for today. It will literally be a spiritual feast that will leave you strengthened and refreshed.

So that's what's keeping us running back and forth like the angels. Thank you so much for your prayers and your support. We need both to keep doing what we're doing. We greatly appreciate the fact that you share our passion for bringing the gospel of Christ to the world as fast and as far as possible. 🔥



LET'S RUN TOGETHER!

Want to get busy sharing the gospel? Consider partnering with us to spread the light of God's love faster and further!

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

APRIL 24-MAY 13

ARISE Australia
Kingscliff, NSW
James Rafferty
www.ariseaustralia.org

JUNE 2-5

Seventh-day Adventist Church
Northern Conference Youth Rally
Johannesburg, South Africa
Jeffrey Rosario
Ncyouth@sdachurch.co.za

JUNE 2-3

Kansas-Nebraska Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists Camp
Meeting
Ty Gibson
www.ks-ne.org

JUNE 5-10

South Central Conference of Seventh-
day Adventists Camp Meeting
Ty Gibson
www.scc-adventist.org

JUNE 8-10

3ABN Spring Camp Meeting
West Frankfort, IL
James Rafferty
3abn.org

JULY 4-8

Light Bearers Convocation
Jasper, Oregon
James & Risë Rafferty, Ty Gibson,
David Asscherick, Jeffrey Rosario,
Fred Bischoff
www.lightbearers.org

see more events at lightbearers.org



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