

# MISSION UPDATE

JANUARY 2017

## DRAFT AWAY, PART 1

BY DAVID ASSCHERICK

**HAVE YOU EVER HEARD** of drafting? Sure you have, but perhaps not the kind of drafting I'm thinking of. Drafting can refer to:

1. Refining several preliminary versions of a piece of writing.
2. Governmental enlistment of young men for mandatory military service.
3. A brilliant aerodynamic technique that significantly improves one's athletic performance.

The drafting I want to bring to your attention is the third type. It takes place in cycling (and other forms of racing). Drafting means to get right behind another rider, so close that your front wheel is almost touching the rear wheel of the cyclist in front of you. I'm talking about a matter of inches (or cm). You do this while you're clipping along at 20-30 mph (30-50 km/h).

Does this sound like a bad idea? When you first try it, it certainly *feels* like an awful idea. There is simply *no chance* of stopping if the person in front of you suddenly hits the brakes. The distance is far too small and the speed way too fast to react. In addition, your forward vision is almost totally blocked by the person in front of you, so you have essentially

no chance of seeing anything anyway. If the front rider hits the brakes, you are absolutely going to smash right into him or her. In large races, like the Tour de France, the stakes are even higher: drafting groups can have 100 riders or more. This means if something goes wrong out front, you're looking at one massive metal-and-flesh-and-bone pile up.

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when together in community.

So why do it then? The answer is to reduce wind resistance and thus decrease the effort needed to travel at a certain pace. In certain conditions, drafting can reduce the needed energy input by more than 50%. That means you're laughing and giggling in the second, third, or fourth position, while the cyclist out front is huffing, puffing, and, as cyclists say, "pushing air." The increased efficiency and decreased effort is astonishing.

Similarly, we are all riding in a race—the Christian's race. But we were not meant to ride alone. We are essentially relational beings, designed to live better when together in community. Admittedly, relationships are risky. But Jesus is our great Leader who is always trustworthy.

Draft behind Him, invest in those around you, and I assure you the reward will be great! 



# GIVING THE TRUMPET A CERTAIN SOUND

BY FRED BISCHOFF

*For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? - 1 Corinthians 4:8*

Light Bearers and the Adventist Pioneer Library are passionate about an accurate recounting of history. Why is this important?

“The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history . . . before long the nation will begin to forget what it is, and what it was.” These words, penned by historian Milan Hübl, express the critical role that history plays in the identity of any people group.

The human race is encountering issues that can only be solved by knowing the original history and principles found in Genesis 1-11. Western civilization (from Western Asia, through North Africa, into Western Europe, and the New World) has yet to learn the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, as well as their global application. The very identity of the United States of America, as determined by its founding documents, is being challenged to an unprecedented degree.

Meanwhile, our Seventh-day Adventist Church continues with its “identity crisis,” wrestling with issues such as the validity of landmark teachings as well as the practicality of organizational structure.

History is like a puzzle, and one must have enough of the pieces to see the picture as it is. Twice in the Bible, the view of the final judgment is when “the books were opened” (Daniel 7:10; Revelation 20:12). The official, complete

historical records are in heaven, but God has preserved many records here on earth. His clear desire is for the human race to have access to enough of earth's records to make intelligent decisions about the past and the future. He is making it increasingly possible for both history and prophecy to be accessed and understood.

At the Adventist Pioneer Library, our sincere desire is to see history speak accurately. We want our records to match God's record above as closely as possible. We have seen over and over again that an accurate understanding of God's guidance and teaching in the past, leads to an eager and informed acceptance of the biblical worldview.

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Ellen White spoke to the critical role history plays in sustaining and strengthening our faith:

"Messages of every order and kind have been urged upon Seventh-day Adventists, to take the place of the truth which, point by point, has been sought out by prayerful study, and testified to by the miracle-working power of the Lord. But the waymarks which have made us what we are, are to be preserved, and they will be preserved, as God has signified through His word and the testimony of His Spirit. He calls upon us to hold firmly, with the grip of faith, to the fundamental principles that are based upon unquestionable authority" (Ellen White, *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, p. 52).

The Adventist Pioneer Library exists to bring relevant biblical and church history to your fingertips. Check out our resources at [www.aplib.org](http://www.aplib.org). Our pioneer collection of writings continues to be distributed in digital form online and in mobile and desktop applications produced by the Ellen G. White Estate. Most recently, a free native Mac app (macOS) was released that includes our non-Ellen-White pioneer writings (see [www.EllenWhite.org](http://www.EllenWhite.org)).

We continue to bring back into print key pioneer books. Since we last reported in October 2016, the following six titles are now available:

- *Daniel and the Revelation* (by Uriah Smith, 1897, the last edition before his death)
- *Ecclesiastical Empire* (by A. T. Jones, 1901, one of his *Empire Series*, from the fall of Rome to the United States of America)
- *Great Empires of Prophecy* (by A. T. Jones, 1898, one of his *Empire Series*, from Babylon to the fall of Rome)
- *The Peril of the Republic of the United States of America* (by Percy T. Magan, 1899)
- *Estudos em Educação Cristã* (Portuguese translation of E. A. Sutherland's *Studies in Christian Education*)
- *As Aventuras do Capitão José Bates* (Portuguese translation of *The Autobiography of Elder Joseph Bates*)

By the time you read this, another Portuguese translation will be complete, and an additional two Spanish translations are coming soon.

Due to a generous donor, we have sponsored an upcoming bulk printing in Brazil by our partner there, Editora dos Pioneiros. They will print the Portuguese versions of *The Autobiography of Elder Joseph Bates*, *Daniel and the Revelation*, *History of the Sabbath and First Day of the Week*, and *Studies in Christian Education*.

The development is underway of our text-to-speech app that will enable mobile devices to read the pioneer book text files.

Keep in touch by monitoring our website, [www.APLib.org](http://www.APLib.org).

Thank you for your prayers and support! 🙏



#### **PRESERVE YOUR HERITAGE**

You play a vital role in preserving the principles upon which our church is founded. Check out the new titles from APL today!

# SPEAKING SCHEDULE

## JANUARY 1-2

Nicodemus Society, W3 Witness  
Development Acceleration Program  
Houston, TX  
<http://nicodemussociety.org/training>  
Ty Gibson

## JANUARY 20-22

SEEDS  
Austin Texas  
tevens@andrews.edu  
Ty Gibson

## JANUARY 31-APRIL 4

ARISE Australia  
Kingscliff, NSW  
David Asscherick  
[www.ariseaustralia.org](http://www.ariseaustralia.org)

## FEBRUARY 7-16

ARISE Australia  
Kingscliff, NSW  
Ty Gibson  
[www.ariseaustralia.org](http://www.ariseaustralia.org)

## FEBRUARY 17-19

Leadership Weekend  
Avondale College of Higher Learning  
Cooranbong, NSW  
[www.nnswleadershipweekend.com](http://www.nnswleadershipweekend.com)  
Ty Gibson

## FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 4

ARISE Express  
Wallsend, NSW  
Ty Gibson, David Asscherick  
<http://www.ariseexpress.com>

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

## ENCOUNTER THE HOLY SPIRIT



**The Holy Spirit** is a bit of an enigma. The church is supposed to be filled with the Spirit before the Second Coming, but how can we be filled with something, or someone, we don't understand? Bill Lehman seeks to present a clear, Scripture-based picture of the identity and work of the Holy Spirit. This thorough treatment of the topic will leave you wanting more of the Spirit's presence in your own life.

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