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Adventist Journey

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My Journey

I firmly believe God was with me. I thought, *It's fine whether I die now, or by some miracle He preserves me or I get a set of lungs unexpectedly. If I die now or live more years and then I die, the first thing I'm going to see when I wake up is going to be Him.* That confidence is something that we have as Seventh-day Adventist Christians.

Visit nadadventist.org/ajdonandtrudistarlin for more of Starlin's story.

DON STARLIN,
*electrical contractor and lung transplant recipient,
Berrien Springs, Michigan*

DON & TRUDI STARLIN



Dear Reader: The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and *Adventist World* magazine, which follows *Adventist Journey* (after page 16). Please enjoy both magazines!

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ADVENTIST JOURNEY

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SUPPORT, INNOVATION, FELLOWSHIP, AND RENEWAL

Central Themes at the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention

Below are snapshots from the recent CALLED convention, where pastors and their families spent several days together at one of the largest specialty events hosted by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Nearly 6,000 attended the convention, held in Lexington, Kentucky, on June 19-22, 2022. We hope you enjoy this glimpse into an event geared toward training, equipping, and reinvigorating NAD clergy and their families. To read more, and check out special daily video shorts, visit <https://www.nadadventist.org/news/2022-called-convention-news-coverage>.—Editors.

Mental Health Addressed at CALLED Convention Pre-session

The 2022 CALLED Pastors' Family Convention started on June 19, 2022, in Lexington, Kentucky, with a special pre-session on mental health. More than 1,100 registered for the Kettering Health Mental Health Seminar, which ran in two parts from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The third and final session, on pastors' mental health, was scheduled for June 21.

"The pandemic has highlighted the need for pastors to be aware of mental health needs and how to ensure that their congregants receive mental health care," said Ivan Williams, NAD Ministerial Association director. "The pandemic has also demonstrated that pastors, too, need mental health support."

The first segment, which included a panel discussion, was entitled "The Mind: God's Design and What Went Wrong and What You Can Do About It." After participants on the platform told their stories, Torben Bergland, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, and associate director of the General Conference Health

Photo by Brent Harding

Ministries Department, shared a presentation on polarization and extremism from the perspective of mental health experts, Ellen White's writings, and biblical resources, including 2 Timothy 4:3-5. "These issues of extremism, polarization, and fanaticism are things that we really struggle with, both in society and also in our church," said Bergland.

"We all need a place where we can go and just be totally vulnerable, feel whatever [we] feel, share everything about it, process it together with someone so that [we] can go back into the world and face it."

The second part of the pre-session, entitled "Relational Wellness and Well-being: The Pastoral Family; How to Breathe Again," included Loma Linda University Medical Center child and adolescent psychiatry's Mary Ann Schaeffer interview with a person who shared how his son's suicide affected him and his family. This was followed by a panel discussion, and tips and resources in a presentation by Nestor Bruno, psychologist, and director of the Ministry Care Line of the Kettering Health Network.

—*Kimberly Luste Maran*



Pastors pose for a group photo after the CALLED women in clergy luncheon. *Pieter Damsteeg*

Women in Clergy Lunch at CALLED Convention Serves to Encourage Female Pastors

On Monday, June 20, 2022, the North American Division Ministerial Association held a luncheon specially designed to encourage and celebrate women clergy and seminarians at the 2022 CALLED convention.

One hundred fifty members of the clergy, all of them female, gathered at the Hilton Lexington Downtown for the event. After prayer, Pastor Heather Crews, associate ministerial director for the NAD, and chair of the NAD Women Clergy Advisory, encouraged the attendees to enjoy their meals as she introduced the members of the NAD Women Clergy Advisory. Guests also received contact information

for the advisory members. "Our purpose is to mentor and support women clergy," Crews said. "We created this event to build connections among women clergy. We all need mentors and support in our calling."

"Women understand women in ministry. Men don't necessarily have to struggle with some of the things we struggle with," said Pastor Guadeloupe Montour, a member of the NAD Women Clergy Advisory team. "We are not sidelined. We are not tokens. We are here, and we want to make space in an event where the language and seminars are sometimes not directed toward women."

—*Rachel Scribner*

At the CALLED Convention, Kids Have Fun While Exploring Their Spiritual Gifts at Special Children's Event

On Sunday evening, June 19, 2022, the doors opened up for 670 registered children, ages 3-12, to the unique experience of CALLEDKids Go Fish for Kids: Where Kids Explore Their Spiritual Gifts. Before heading into the CALLEDKids wonderland, each child was checked into the digital system, then checked into the venue by a parent or guardian.

"God has given children such special gifts," said Sherri Uhrig, North American Division Children's Ministries director. "At our themed event at CALLED we want the kids to experience and understand their spiritual gift, which will help them know how they can serve God in the best way possible."

While their parents and guardians attended the CALLED conven-

tion programming during the day and evening, the children enjoyed age-specific activities and learning opportunities through eight sessions with the more than 100 prescreened and trained volunteer staff, many of whom serve as children's pastors, coordinated by the NAD Children's Ministries team.

—*Kimberly Luste Maran*

ALLED Attendees Ponder the Purpose of Church Ministry at Educational Seminars

Over the course of several days the 2022 CALLED convention offered 135 educational seminars, with more than 25 simultaneous classes in a single afternoon. Presenters included NAD officers and department directors, health-care professionals, technical innovators, pastors, and experts in a wide variety of fields. The topics were varied, but all were chosen to provide training and tools for pastors and chaplains.

The NAD Ministerial Association selected a wide range of pastoral

learning opportunities based on seven “core qualities of an effective pastor.” These include character, evangelism, leadership, management, relationship, scholarship, and worship. On the convention website, the ministerial team wrote that “effective pastors continually engage in equipping themselves with the current best practices of ministry.”

There were four “boot camps”—or dedicated seminar tracks—that pastors and ministry teams could attend, either as a complete set, or mixed and

matched with other topics. The four boot camps were geared toward church planters, church revitalization, pastor evangelists, and volunteer lay pastors.

One panel “How to Use Media for Local Evangelism,” featured a discussion with Adventist media ministry leaders Shawn Boonstra, Elizabeth Talbot, Debleaire Snell, Roy Ice, John Bradshaw, and John Geli from Voice of Prophecy, Jesus 101, Breath of Life, Faith for Today, It Is Written, and LifeTalk Radio, respectively.

—Rachel Scribner

At PK Journey Teens and Young Adults From Pastoral Families Are Encouraged and Supported

The NAD Youth and Young Adults Ministries PK Journey, designed for young people in grades 7-12, featured community outreach projects, social excursions, and heartfelt worship planned specifically for pastors’ kids and their unique experiences. “I don’t know what kind of things you need on your journey,” then NAD Youth associate director Vandean Griffin told potential attendees in a video message before the event. He offered to help young people on “your journey with Christ, your journey in life, your journey with your peers, and your journey as you make this decision to follow Jesus Christ.”

NAD Youth Ministries arranged the congress to include both “quality time together” and “spiritual time

together,” Griffin said. Social excursions included roller skating, arcade games, and laser tag, among other options. Worship time featured an energetic praise team made up of youth and young adults; biblical drama presentations; and dynamic speakers who also grew up as the children of pastors, and understand the challenges “PKs” face.

“These kids need to be loved,” said program cohost and young adult Priscilla Luna. “The conference is just such an uplifting experience—seeing them all unite together and understand that they’re not alone.”

After Monday’s moment of deep connection, the group held a baptism of 14 on Tuesday, in a nearby hotel swimming pool. Several pastor parents were able to baptize their children at the event. Family and friends stood around the pool as the charge and pronouncement were given. As the young people came up out of the water, the crowd broke into song: “I have decided to follow Jesus,” they sang. “No turning back, no turning back.”

—Rachel Scribner

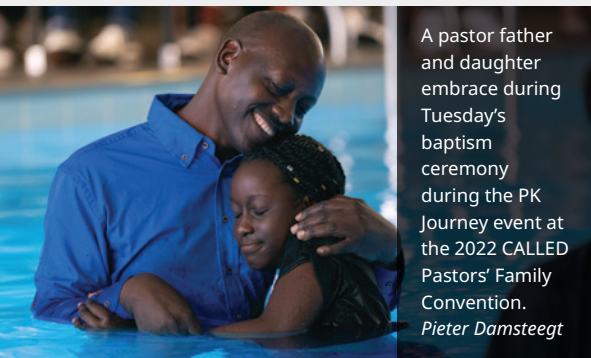
ALLED Evangelism Shark Tank Showcases Innovative Ministry Initiatives

On June 22, 2022, in Lexington, Kentucky, the North American Division Ministerial Association awarded a total of \$120,000 to 15 pastors as part of an “evangelism shark tank” competition for innovative soul-winning ideas.

The 15 finalists were chosen from more than 100 applicants to present their ideas on the Rupp Arena main stage at CALLED Pastors’ Family Convention. Five pastors pitched each evening from June 19-21, and each received some funding for his or her project, with the amount dependent on placement in that evening’s competition.

“Someone asked me, ‘Why did you do the evangelism shark tank?’” said José Cortes, Jr., Ministerial Association associate director for evangelism. “Evangelism is not about methods. Evangelism is about people. So if a method doesn’t work, you do away with that method, and you bring in a method that helps you reach people.”

On Wednesday morning, June 22, Cortes presented each finalist with a giant ceremonial check: \$20,000 for the three who won first



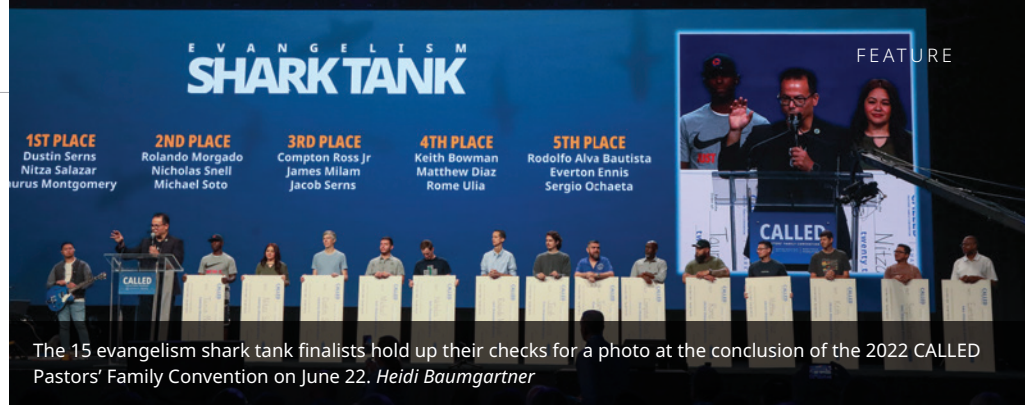
A pastor father and daughter embrace during Tuesday's baptism ceremony during the PK Journey event at the 2022 CALLED Pastors' Family Convention.
Pieter Damsteegt

place, \$10,000 for the second-place winners, and \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000 for third-, fourth-, and fifth-place finishers, respectively.

On Sunday night, June 19, Dustin Serns, pastor of LifeBridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in University Place, Washington, earned the \$20,000 first prize with an idea for planting new churches by hosting free health clinics. Serns had already seen some success and even baptisms with early versions of the concept. “When our team started these free health clinics, we didn’t realize this is also a key to planting Adventist churches in secular areas,” Serns said during his presentation.

Nitza Salazar, the Children’s Ministries director for the Washington Conference, won the \$20,000 prize on Monday night, June 20, with a pitch to expand her “Special Stars” Christmas program, a pageant that centers on children with disabilities. “What I’m doing is just not putting on a Christmas program,” Salazar said during her pitch. “I’m ministering to those whom our church has forgotten. I’m giving voice to those kids who didn’t have a voice, and now they have . . . a stage to shine.”

The third and final \$20,000 prize went to Pastor Taurus Montgomery from Harbor of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Montgomery plans to expand his church’s basketball ministry to include character development programs at public schools, compassion projects for young people, and a sports-themed evangelistic series. “When my house burned down and we were homeless, an Adventist family welcomed my family into their home, and into their church,” Montgomery said during his pitch on Tuesday night, June 21. “That church had a basketball ministry. They planted the seeds that led me to Christ.”



The 15 evangelism shark tank finalists hold up their checks for a photo at the conclusion of the 2022 CALLED Pastors’ Family Convention on June 22. *Heidi Baumgartner*

Other ideas presented during the three-night shark tank event included a pop-up, plant-based restaurant that leads up to an evangelistic event, a “Sabbath experience” gift box that members can share with friends and neighbors, and a ministry designed to equip Pacific Islanders for sharing the gospel, a soccer field with tournaments for area children, among other creative innovations.

—Rachel Scribner

Evening Films Shown at CALLED Convention a Highlight for Attendees

Special film screenings were part of the program for the three evenings of the CALLED Pastors’ Family Convention held June 19-22, 2022. NAD Ministerial Association arranged to showcase *Return to Palau*, shown over two nights; *The Book of Joshua*, shown on both Sunday and Monday night; *Arnion*, a Sonscreen Films production based on the book of Revelation, and several student films, shown on Tuesday night; and short missional films, also shown on Tuesday.

“It was wonderful to be invited to the CALLED convention to screen some of the award-winning films produced by student filmmakers as well as original content produced by Sonscreen,” said Julio Muñoz, director of Sonscreen Film Festival and an associate director of the NAD Office of Communication. “We are striving to provide a safe space for young Adventist creatives as well as use the medium of film to tell relevant stories to connect with new audiences. We were so thrilled with the support we received from the CALLED audience.”

—Kimberly Luste Maran

Ministerial Spouses Attend a Variety of Seminars and Special Forums

The CALLED convention, held June 19-22, provided quality seminars and resources for all the North American Division’s pastoral families—and this included ministerial spouses. Dedicated ministerial spouse leaders under the direction of Desiree Bryant, MEd, NAD Ministerial Spouses Association director, worked tirelessly to offer practical, interactive forums to benefit fellow spouses from across the division.

There were open, interactive ministerial spouse forums in both English and Spanish. The seminar titles included: “Compassion Ministry,” “Male Ministerial Spouses Open Discussion,” “Supporting Mental Health Issues,” “Challenging Your Fitness Status Quo?” “New Ministerial Spouses—Let’s Talk,” “Discovering Your Ministry Passion,” “Balancing Family and Ministry,” “Authentic Christianity,” “The Post-Modern Pastor’s Spouse—Being Myself,” “Ministerial Spouses Discussion

Forum," "The Chaplain Spouses' Journey," "How to Grow my Own Spiritual Life in the Midst of Stress, Chaos and Conflict," and "Meeting the Transitioning Needs of a Pastor's Spouse."

For the ministerial spouses' discussion forum, guest panelists Heidi Martin, Wirmin Alcantara, and Carolann De Leon focused on the topic "Family, Finances, and Mental Health," providing practical information and experience. The session was comprised of short 10-minute presentations followed by a 10-minute question-and-answer time for each of the three topics. The room was filled to capacity with standing room only in the back!

—Cynthia L. Nguyen

Casting Our Eyes to Calvary: CALLED Arena Experience

The North American Division's CALLED Pastors' Family Convention is a time centered on guiding, supporting, and celebrating pastors. The CALLED Arena Experiences not only met that goal but exceeded it, focusing on pastoral health and how believers must be grounded first and foremost on Christ alone.

Over the course of four days, the arena experience was the central point of group worship that capped each day with morning sessions from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and evening sessions from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. ensuring each was spiritually, visually, emotionally, intellectually, and physically engaging (with special exercise breaks) for both the pastors and their families.

It's not a secret that these past two and a half years have thrown challenges that, as Tim Gillespie, pastor of Crossway church, observed, "seminary didn't prepare us for." However, within these arena experiences, such struggles, both personal and professional, were acknowledged in light of God's overwhelming faithfulness. The *Stories of Resilience* featured in every session spotlighted the amazing tales of faith in the face of trials through heartfelt recorded interviews. The power of personal faith

New Event, Ministry Tech Lab, Offers Attendees Inspiration Through Technology

For three days at the ministry tech lab, thousands of church leaders at the CALLED Pastors' Family Convention were able to talk with experts on everything tech-ministry related, including special time slots to talk about microphones, cameras, lights, and more for worship services, podcasts, Bible studies, and evangelistic outreach. Podcasters, technology innovators, digital missionaries, and social media pioneers and experts met with pastors one-on-one, or spoke to audiences during TED Talk-style presentations during the event's regularly scheduled "Tech Talks."

"Technology is here to stay, and it was an exciting experience in the tech lab where pastors got technical hands-on exposure to technology that can improve their digital witness," said Rohann Wellington, NAD Professional Services director.

"Our presenters are experts in the field of digital discipleship, worship, and evangelism practices, and we believe that their success strategies can act as a catalyst for other ministers to engage in digital evangelism and grow their ministry effectiveness in transformative and relevant ways," Wellington added.

At least 150 crowded into the Tech Talk room for each session. In addition to these fast-paced, extended-length sessions conducted by industry experts, tech-savvy ministry leaders spoke at smaller, shorter sessions, sometimes airing their podcasts on or near the small tech lab speaker platform.

More than 2,700 passed through the lab, and many signed up for one-on-one sessions with the tech squad and also visited the more than 15 stations spread around the hall. Some of these tech experts lending advice included LOGOS, Adventist Risk Management, Hope TV, NAD Production Services, SermonView, Media77, Accordance, and Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI).

—Kimberly Luste Maran

emanated from the individual testimonies to the featured ministries and projects, such as the two short films shown during the sessions.

One series throughout the arena experiences encouraged attendees to look back as they move forward. George R. Knight led a series named *We Stand on Their Shoulders*, which shared stories of the amazing individuals in our church's history who displayed grit, determination, and powerful faith.

All of the featured elements of each session, the centerpiece for all the arena experiences, were TED Talk-style presentations given by leading pastors, ministry leaders, and Bible teachers. G Alexander Bryant, Kathy and Roger Hernandez, and Ty Gibson were the speakers for the opening night of the convention on Sunday evening. Adriana Perera and

Hallerin Hill followed on Monday's morning session, with the day closing off with the evening session that included presentations by Gillespie, A. Allan Martin, and Noah Washington. Tuesday's arena experience picked up again at 8:00 a.m. on June 21, with Ed Stetzer and Merlin Burt, with the day wrapping up at the 6:00 p.m. session with Arnaldo Cruz, David Williams, and Tara VinCross. CALLED came to a close with presentations by Debleaire Snell, David Sedlacek, and Ivan Williams, sending off the attendees with an anointing.

Each presentation was constructed to speak into the hearts of weary pastors and offer encouragement. Though each spoke on a different topic, the universal thread of every talk was imploring the importance of returning to the gospel.

—Nicole Dominguez

“Your estate plan
is a gift allowing your
family to focus on

memories

not challenges.”

—Eve Rusk

Director of Planned Giving and Trust Services
Idaho Conference



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← Gary Eckleman (left), a new attendee at Pleasant Valley church, presents a box with blue shoes inside to the eager young customer mentioned in this article.
Dick Duerksen

CREATOR GOD AND THE GIFT OF SHOES

Three Adventist churches in Oregon collaborate on an event in cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

BY RACHEL SCRIBNER

Laughing children chase the swirling, iridescent orbs that bloom from a bubble machine. Tantalizing scents of cheese and bread waft from a pile of pizza boxes. The drum circle fills the air with a deep-throated melody. As dignified elders keep a watchful eye on the proceedings, young tribal citizens wait in line to receive a gift of new shoes.

One young boy takes his seat. A volunteer crouches down to his level and says hello. “Before we get your shoes, we are going to do a water blessing on your feet,” the volunteer explains. “Would you like to do that?” The boy agrees. “We believe that water gives life, and we pray that your shoes will bring new life to you and your family,” the volunteer says, pouring water over the boy’s feet.

Soon a shoebox arrives. What color might the mysterious shoes inside be? “Blue?” ventures the boy. The volunteer slowly opens the box, and a broad smile spreads across the boy’s face as he sees the blue shoes inside. Nearby several tribal elders, grandchildren in arms, smile their approval.

Shoe Giveaway

The shoe giveaway was held Sabbath, May 21, 2022, on the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. The Madras, Pleasant Valley, and Redmond Seventh-day Adventist churches collaborated on the event in close cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and with funding from

Samaritans’ Feet. Tribal leadership contributed food for families in need, and provided a drum circle. Four hundred twenty-five children either received shoes at the event or will get them soon by delivery. The Adventist churches raised additional funds and staffed the event with volunteers.

“We had a blessing from the longhouse, and I stood up and offered a prayer,” said Seth Cantu, pastor of the Madras church. Cantu is White Mountain Apache, and acted as liaison with the tribal elders to plan the event. He had learned from tribal leadership that shoes were one of the tribes’ specific needs, at a similar time as Doug McGinnis from the Pleasant Valley church approached him about the possibility of planning a shoe giveaway.

But Cantu stresses that the shoe presentation should not be seen as an isolated outreach event, rather it is one step in building a lasting partnership. Many tribes are justifiably skeptical of Christian groups coming onto their reservations because of poor follow-up or worse. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs actually requested that the name of Jesus not be mentioned at the event, because of harm a previous group had caused.

As a result of their concerns, Cantu worked to create a script for those who were washing feet and presenting shoes, with guidance from Candace Jimenez, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Jimenez grew up on the reservation and now attends the Pleasant Valley church.



↑ A child ties their new shoes as Gary Eckleman looks on. *Dick Duerksen*

Together Cantu and Jimenez decided that foot washing would not be compulsory, and chose to call God “Creator” or “Great Father” to connect with local culture. They also called the foot washing a “water blessing” because of the significance water holds in Warm Springs.

“I was really thinking about what it meant to be a tribal person, volunteering in my own community with a church. It can be really heavy in a way,” Jimenez said. “I want to be thoughtful about having a church come into a tribal community and having it done right. We can see from history that there’s a lot of times it hasn’t been done right.”

In the end both Jimenez and Cantu felt the start was a positive one, and that the tribes appreciated the cultural sensitivity and respect their visitors displayed. “We literally are shaving years off of the time line for the relationship,” Cantu said.

Jimenez spoke with her uncle, tribal elder Dan Martinez, on the

day of the event. “I could just tell that he held a lot of joy, having been a part of it, and having been a connector—connecting Pastor Seth with the right people,” Jimenez said.

For Jimenez, the three churches’ plan to send 40 young tribal members to Big Lake Youth Camp this summer was particularly positive. “If I lived in Warm Springs and I were raising my children there, I would just be so grateful,” she said.

Cantu, who regularly advises others who work in native ministries, admits that his experiences on other reservations did help the team avoid pitfalls. Ultimately, however, he credits the early success of the partnership between Warm Springs and the churches to God’s perfect timing.

“When things happen without you having to do anything, it just affirms that you are where you are supposed to be,” Cantu said. “And for Christians I don’t know how it gets better than that—

knowing that you are where God wants you to be.”

A Gift From the Creator

Back in the shoe line, blue sneakers slip neatly over the boys’ clean white socks. “Creator, may these shoes be a blessing to this young one and their family,” the volunteer prays. “May they walk in beauty before You, as their Creator; their elders; and their family. I know that they are valued so much and You want them to have this gift. Thank You, Creator. Amen.”

The prayer ends, the boy melts back into the crowd, and the shoe giveaway goes on. Soon the shadows grow longer, and the first hint of sunset color begins to creep across the sky. “Look at that: a rainbow!” someone shouts. And there it is. Above the crowd glows a beam of blazing colors. A gift, to end the day, from the Creator.

Rachel Scribner writes from Portland, Oregon.

↓ Tribal citizen Kimiko Danzuka Mitchell smiles while holding her granddaughter at the shoe giveaway event. *David and Bev Hall, Bramblestone Photography*





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— Karen Whitson, ReNewed Hope Food Pantry



BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

They Need to Know

If a pastor you know made (or is making) a meaningful difference in your life tell them.

The front door closed with a resounding *thunk*. I was still in my room squeezing my Critter Sitters Trapper Keeper into my bookbag. With measured movements, I zipped the bag up, grabbed my lunch, and made my way over to the door that had shut a little more than five minutes before. Thrusting it open I glanced at the empty driveway. My stomach sank. My mom had finally done what she had threatened many a school morn. She had left me home.

She was the principal and often had to arrive early to unlock the school door. And while I wasn't necessarily a dawdling middle schooler, I was the reason she didn't always make it before the first student. I had been duly warned that morning of the departure time, in addition to a final shouted warning as she walked out the door.

I sat on the front steps, contemplating my situation and options. I heard the thrumming *chug* of a lawnmower across the street. From around the corner of the house came our pastor pushing the mower on that warm spring morning. Grateful he lived across the street, I waved and jogged over.

"My mom left me home because I wasn't ready on time. Would you be able to take me to the school when you're done?" I nervously blurted as he depressed the throttle and the mower fell silent.

Wiping his brow with a sweaty rag he pulled from his back pocket, the rail-thin pastor shrugged. "Well, I can take you now," he said. "The grass can wait. I'll roll the mower in the back and meet you upfront in a couple of minutes."

Giving my thanks, I scrambled back to our house, carefully locked up, and waited at the passenger door of the pastor's well-aged sedan. In two minutes flat, he appeared with a fresh shirt, combed white locks, and keys in hand. We soon arrived at the three-teacher school and after uttering several profuse "thank yous" I went inside as he maneuvered away.

This is just one of my memories of pastors making a difference. From coordinating work bees and gym nights to writing powerful articles; from pre-marital counseling to dedicating my children; from asking for and listening to my ideas for sermon graphics to running community service programs; from celebrating milestones to sharing in grieving, pastors have had a profound impact on my life.

While I don't remember many of their sermons, I remember their kindness. Their passion. Their dedication. Their Christlike spirit.

Hold Up Their Hands

Ellen G. White writes about the relationship between pastors and their parishioners: "Let the time thus gained be spent in wrestling with God for your ministers. Hold up their hands as did Aaron and Hur the hands of Moses."^{*}

White reminds us that we are to work together. "Let it be seen that Christ, not the minister, is the head of the church. The members of the body of Christ have a part to act, and they will not be accounted faithful unless they do act their part. Let a divine work be wrought in every soul, until Christ shall behold His image reflected in His followers."

I know my experience isn't everyone's experience. There are tragic stories of clergy abuse and none of this deplorable behavior should ever be allowed or tolerated in the slightest. There are narcissistic, predatory pastors and the damage they do is catastrophic.

I've been truly blessed that the pastors in my life have been committed, caring reflections of God's love. They have not been perfect, but I've seen God in and through them. And in this appreciation month in particular I am grateful.

Has a pastor you know made (or is making) a meaningful difference in your life? Let them know (see 1 Thess. 5:12-13). Tell them. Show them.

Their jobs aren't easy. They need to know.

^{*} Ellen G. White quotes taken from *Pastoral Ministry*, pp. 100, 101. Silver Spring, MD: General Conference Ministerial Association, 1995.

Pastors have had a profound impact on my life.

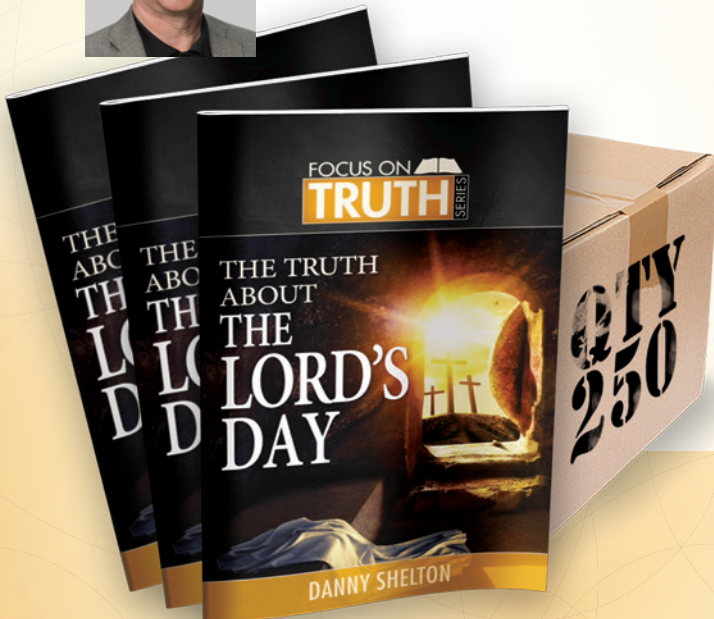
Kimberly Luste Maran is editor of Adventist Journey.



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Danny Shelton
3ABN Founder & Corporate Consultant



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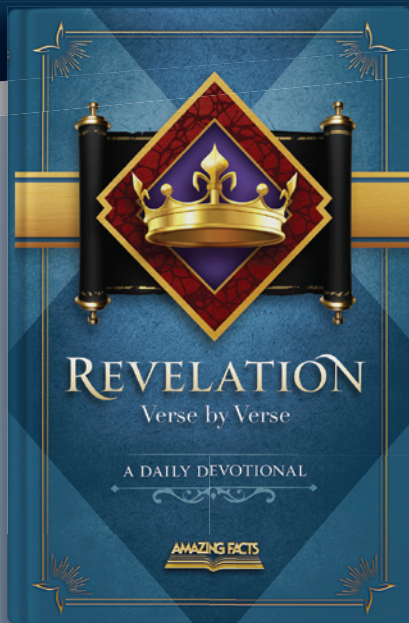
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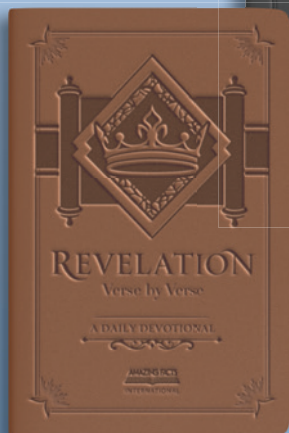
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