

# Lake Union HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2020



**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**  
WORLD CHANGERS FOR A CHANGING WORLD



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**In honor of frontline healthcare workers at Spectrum Health Lakeland, Andrews University commissioned an art installation** unveiled July 16 within the Lakeland Medical Center Pavilion, St. Joseph, Mich.



**Noel Ojeda was named Indiana Conference Hispanic coordinator.** A 2005 graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, he served as a district pastor and, since 2013, the Hispanic coordinator for the Southern New England Conference until he accepted the call to Indiana.



**The Michigan Adventist bookstores are now closed for sales** but Sabbath school coordinators and superintendents as well as other church leaders can contact the Indiana ABC in Cicero, Ind., for printed materials such as periodicals and other ABC resources.



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When I arrived at Pioneer Memorial Church in 1990 as the pastor for Youth Ministry, Glenn Russell, now chair of the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages at Andrews University, was the Bible teacher at Andrews Academy. Glenn had transformed the curriculum to include a practical, student-driven, hands-on, evening ministry class called Christian Nurture. With a little coaching and nurturing — and much prayer, students came up with a class project to provide some form of ministry to their community. One of my favorites was the Mother’s Day Brunch for single moms and their kids, funded totally by the community.

Glenn is still at it and represents what I’ve come to appreciate about our Andrews University schools, including Andrews Academy and Ruth Murdoch Elementary School: faculty and staff creating opportunities for students to be immersed in a commission culture, getting practical ministry experience under the guidance and encouragement of great mentors. Isn’t that really what Adventist education is all about?



Gary Burns  
Editor



William Ricos

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Lloyd Martinez

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH:** SARAH GORDON

**ON THE COVER:** RACHEL HEFFELFINGER ON THE CAMPUS OF HONG KONG ADVENTIST ACADEMY

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# Change: A Door to Opportunity

While I have been homebound over the last few months, I have been reflecting on the changing world and our role in it, as Christians, as Seventh-day Adventists and as Andrews University.



▲ Andrea Luxton

One thing is certain: not all we leave behind when change happens is bad, and not all that change brings is good. However, what a time of change does do is allow us to make prayerful and deliberate shifts from what is negative in the past and to embrace new possibilities. That recalibration can bring with it hope and opportunity for ourselves and others.

The Bible is certainly packed with stories of change, recalibration, and new hopes and opportunities — the Israelites as they left Egypt and then as they arrived in Canaan; the nation of Israel again and again with prophets that encouraged repentance and redirection of values and allegiances; the disciples as they understood the true meaning of the Messiah and gave up their views on an earthly kingdom to focus on a heavenly one; and the early church as it expanded its reach to all peoples. Of course, not all people accepted the leadership of Moses, the directions of the prophets, the message of Christ, or the choices of the early church. The personal loss was too great, so they chose the route of the past, seeking to ignore the opportunities that came with change.

One of the most poignant stories in the Bible to me is the well-known story of the rich young ruler, a young man with so much to offer. He seems to have the passion and the desire to do what is right. *What can I do to inherit eternal life?* Follow the commandments to God and his fellow humans. He has done that, he replied. But Jesus knows that the young man cannot fully embrace the change that the gospel brings unless he is willing to give up what keeps him from moving

forward: his riches. And that he cannot do. As he leaves, Jesus looks at him sadly. An opportunity lost. Huge possibility not embraced. Personal safety and security wins over uncertain opportunity.

What about us in this time of change that is around us? What does God call us to do? What can we take away from this time of turbulence that makes us live more effectively as God's agents in this world? For Andrews University, how do we position ourselves even more effectively as a place that is serious about making World Changers for a changing world, and not just any World Changers but ones who do so in the context of faith to God and compassion for others. I will let the other articles from Andrews University in this publication explore more of how our commitment is evidenced on our campus while here I would like to identify some commitments I have made as we move into an environment of a changed world.

1. What I will not do for myself in care, I will do for the sake of others whom God loves immeasurably. In the current environment and on a very practical level, that speaks to social distancing, face coverings and other precautions. These should not become political issues; these are solely about our responsibility as Christians to all those around us. *Am I my brother's (or sister's) keeper?* Yes.
2. While I cannot change everything around me, I will actively seek to live and influence others to live according to the words of Micah 6:8: *Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with my God.* This means I will seek to consistently act biblically before



Stephen Payne

◀ Andrea Luxton, president, looks forward to welcoming students back to campus.

anything else, irrespective of those that want to mislabel those decisions. The Bible is full of evidence that there is no excuse to treat anyone with anything other than heartfelt compassion and genuine love. As I understand “*walking humbly with my God,*” an awareness of the majesty of God and the inconceivable love He has poured out for me can only bring me to my knees in an understanding of my place in His Kingdom, one that has to include an approach to others that mirrors God’s approach to me. Mercy, compassion, gentleness, faithfulness.

3. I will actively seek to ensure that the hope that is intrinsic to an understanding of God’s Kingdom, now and in the future, is something I live daily. Over the last few months, we have shared a lot of pain together, even amongst those whom we have never met. Our shared humanity calls out for a shared future of hope and possibility, possible only because of the reality of God’s leadership in our lives, our church and our schools. And that absolutely includes Andrews University!

I said these commitments are for me personally and they are. But at Andrews University, these are corporate commitments, too. I believe they are commitments that change hearts and, as hearts change, so does our capacity to face the changing world with a grace, passion, hope, faith and optimism that will, in turn, bring positive change.

If we are truly going to be World Changers in a changing world, our message and actions must be clear, compassionate, unequivocal and hopeful. We must truly live the reality of loving God with our hearts, souls and minds, and our neighbors (all neighbors) as ourselves. And when, as did the rich young ruler, we ask God “*What else?*”, we must be willing to embrace the answer.

I want to add one more thought to this message. There may be a tendency as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic continues in our lives and communities to consider that maybe Adventist education isn’t so important right now: it may be cheaper elsewhere. I would want to counter that by saying, I think Adventist education is even more important than ever before. Why? Because education is never in a vacuum; there are always underlying ideologies that drive what happens in a school or university.

What we need now, at this critical point in the history of this world, are graduates who have wrestled (in an environment that is passionate about faithful, biblical engagement in the world) with those critical questions around how my faith, my education and my commitment to being a changemaker all come together. If we are going to make World Changers for a changing world, we are going to have to do it intentionally, prayerfully, and together. ■

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For a video message from Andrea Luxton, president of Andrews University, visit [andrews.edu/worldchangers/changingworld](http://andrews.edu/worldchangers/changingworld).

# Practicing More Empathy

As a therapist and Seventh-day Adventist Christian, I help people improve their relationships with themselves, and others, every day. One way I do that is through teaching them empathy.



▲ Brad Hinman

Empathy has become somewhat of a catchphrase these days, and is perhaps overused, but few people understand its true usefulness in our daily interactions with each other.

Have you ever gotten into an argument with someone? The answer, of course, is “Yes.” Have you ever gotten into an argument that seemed to only get worse and more tense instead of productive? I sure have, and so have many of my clients. When clients complain to me about similar interchanges, I teach them empathy.

I begin by asking the client if they can understand what the other person felt in the exchange and their reasons for feeling that way. They almost always say “No.” If the other person in the disagreement is present, I ask my client to ask the person what they are feeling. Once the other person shares what they are feeling, I ask my client to repeat those feelings back to them while using their own words. For example, “I hear that you are upset with me because I told you I would empty the dishwasher and I didn’t.” Notice, there are no words of defensiveness or condemnation; there is just a reflection of what my client notices the other person is feeling. Also, and I want to emphasize this part, *my client does not have to agree that the person should feel that way, or that they made them feel that way*; they are only reflecting the other person’s feelings.

Once the client understands this process and has practiced it, it is time to move on to the next phase. Once the feeling is reflected accurately, I teach my clients to add a phrase that indicates support and care for the person they are talking to. For example, “I would be disappointed, too, if I were expecting something to

be done, and it wasn’t”; or, “It is never my intention to disappoint you or hurt you on purpose.”

At this point, if my client still wishes to get defensive or argue, they can; however, oftentimes after taking these two simple steps, neither person feels compelled to continue the argument. If the person who is feeling hurt, angry, upset, sad or another strong emotion feels heard and respected, without judgment or condemnation, there is often no more need to assert one’s point forcefully and continuously.

To summarize, when someone is upset with you, listen for *what* they’re feeling. *Reflect* that feeling back to them *without judgment or condemnation*. You don’t have to agree that they should be feeling that way. Finally, *add a supportive and understanding phrase* to your reflection. ■

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**Note** — This article is not intended to take the place of therapy, medical advice, or to diminish the effects of mental or personality disorders.

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Dr. Brad Hinman, LPC, LMFT, AASECT certified sex therapist, director, Hinman Counseling Services, assistant professor, Andrews University



# We Need Each Other

My kids hopped in the van after their first day of summer camp. “It was great, Mommy!” they shouted in unison. However, when only one lunchbox was propelled onto the front seat, I asked where the other one was.

Trust me. Forgotten lunchboxes do not smell great when you find them!

“Mommy, I forgot it in the car this morning [Dad had dropped them off in his car], but don’t worry, we shared this lunch!” My heart went from absolute dread to absolute joy in seconds. Every parent fears not being able to help their child. To learn that they now realized they could help each other reminded me of the need we have for social supports in our lives — family, friends and even professional helpers. God designed us to live in community, to help each other out, so we do not have to face life’s difficulties alone.

Who, amongst your family and friends, are your supports? When we are younger, our main helpers are our parents. As we grow, our network expands to include more family and friends. We may have certain people with whom we share more of our spiritual journey and people with whom we talk about our finances. Our prayer partners may change over time. All of this is expected, but the important thing is to have a network and use it.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 lists some different ways that others can help in times of trouble, how they ease each other’s burdens, or work together to be stronger. Since our country is still trying to contain the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and social isolation measures are still in place, this is a good time to reassess who our supports are right now. For my boys, they’ve learned to help each other on the playground, with spelling words and, apparently, with lunch! However, they still come to mom or dad when they are scared or their tummy hurts.

The pandemic may have shifted who we are close to, or who we can depend on. Therefore, we need to reassess. As the school year is starting and the weather is changing, we may need different things and, maybe, different people. Without support, we are more likely to be lonely, anxious, stressed or depressed. We can counter that by strengthening our social networks, both family and friends! I truly believe social connections are an integral part of God’s design of humans, one which we honor by both giving and accepting support from others.

Sometimes we go through major life events that require more support than just a listening ear or half of a peanut butter sandwich. The same God who gave us family and friends, provides knowledge for counselors, social workers and psychiatrists to provide a different type of support. When you need professional help, please trust that God has prepared them to support you, too.

Remember that God is faithful and, with every temptation, also provides a way out. May your network always include someone who can help you — and maybe even share their lunch! ■

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*Melissa Ponce-Rodas is an assistant professor of Psychology at Andrews University. She and her husband, Segundo, have twin boys, Samuel and Jonathan. Her research and advocacy revolve around the intersections of religion and domestic violence.*



▲ Melissa Ponce-Rodas



# What Happened to Butler? — 1

Not all the journeys after Minneapolis were happy ones. G.I. Butler, feeling that he had been “slaughtered” in the house of his friends, gave up the General Conference presidency at the conclusion of the 1888 session.



▲ George R. Knight

Soon after, he and his wife moved to Florida to grow oranges. Six days before his departure for the South in mid-December, Ellen White sent him a letter in which she called him an enemy of the Testimonies and an unconverted man. She closed with an appeal to his heart to change his ways.

That was the first of many letters to Butler. But he was not up to confessions. Looking back at his early Florida period from the perspective of 1905, he wrote: “Some people find it very hard to make a confession. . . . She used to write me, over and over, about the Minneapolis meeting and things of that kind, and I invariably wrote back to her that it was utterly useless for me to go to making confessions I did not believe were called for. I stood my ground on that.” He would, he claimed, never make the mistake of claiming peace when it did not exist.

► George Ide Butler



<https://adventistdigitalibrary.org/adl/365009/george-i-butler>

To outward appearances, Butler’s frustration had reached its peak in early 1893 when he asked that the denomination not renew his ministerial credentials. But in actuality Butler was probably not requesting to resign as a minister as much as he was raising a question that he needed to have answered — “Am I still needed?”

About the same time, he preached for the first time in four years. Meanwhile, the church renewed his credentials. Overjoyed with his acceptance, Butler declared that he was almost ready to exclaim that “the dear brethren have entered into a conspiracy to kill the old sinner with kindness.”

But, being a complex person, as all of us are, he still couldn’t believe “that God led Waggoner to deluge the denomination with the Galatians controversy.” On the other hand, he was now at least willing to admit that God had brought good out of it — especially in terms of the increased prominence of justification by faith and the righteousness of Christ.

*Lord, we want to thank You for Your long-suffering with rebellious humans. We each have a little of George Butler in us, and we need help. More than that, we want help. Thank You for staying in our lives in spite of who we are. ■*

*George R. Knight is a retired professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. This article is from his book, Lest We Forget, a daily devotional, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, page 296; reprinted by permission.*



# The Parable of the Pharisee and the Kosraens

The first time I heard — or, more accurately, did not hear — a Kosraen person pray, I was utterly bewildered.

I was aware that we were about to bless the food — everyone was silent, heads were bowed and eyes were closed, but I was hearing no words of thanks to God for the beautiful meal spread before me. Instead, there was silence, followed by a murmur of amens. At that time, I assumed that maybe we were all supposed to pray for our own food. However, in the eleven weeks I have now been here, I have learned that most people in Kosrae pray only in a whisper.

Whether due to shyness or respect for God, it takes some getting used to. It can be humorous, because they announce prayer in a very loud tone — to inform people that it is happening, and then drop to what seems to be complete silence or only a soft murmur. Before meals I wait for someone to call out “Prai!” and then bow my head with all the others in silence until I hear the resounding “Amen!” that signals the end of a prayer that no one has heard but God. Church services are often similar, because the sermon is, three out of four times, in Kosraen, and I must listen carefully for the memorized “Prai!” in order to bow my head at the right time. Although I am used to them praying in a whisper, I have not learned this skill yet and still prefer to talk to God out loud when I’m asked to pray. However, hopefully that doesn’t make me the Pharisee in this story.

One night at our mid-week meeting as one of our respected elders was praying in this fashion, I thought of the parable in Luke of the Pharisee and the publican. The Pharisee prayed loudly so people could hear the gaudy words and empty praises that he likely did not consider the meaning of. He did not care about speaking to God; he only wanted to impress those he thought lower than himself. On the other hand, the publican prayed quietly, *afar off*, and *smote his chest*,

saying, “*God, be merciful to me a sinner.*” This man, although disregarded by those high in spiritual authority, had a closer and deeper walk with the Father in Heaven than many of the most influential priests and pastors ever will (Luke 18:9–14). In Matthew 6, when Jesus teaches us to pray, He says not to be like the hypocrites who stand on the street corners and exalt themselves rather than their Creator. Instead He tells us to pray in secret (Matt. 6:5, 6).

Now, I’m not saying that we have to pray in a whisper, although I see a beautiful representation of respect and awe in such a prayer. But one thing this style of praying has taught me is a beautiful sense of humility that we should each strive for when coming before the Controller of the Universe. As hard as I try not to compare and contrast, it is hard not to wonder at some of the lengthy prayers I have heard in churches back home and ask how genuine their meaning was.

It is not for me to judge such things. However, Kosrae taught me a bountiful number of lessons, and this was one of them. ■

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Heidi Oxentenko and Kendra Pauls served last school year at the Kosrae Seventh-day Adventist School as the 5th/6th- and 7th/8th-grade teachers. The Lake Union Conference is raising funds to help the Kosrae School and Church build a much-needed gymnasium. To learn more, please visit: <https://kosraelakeunion.org/>.



▲ Heidi Oxentenko (right) and Kendra Pauls



Kamron Masih

◀ Heidi Oxentenko prays with her student during the Kosrae School’s Week of Prayer.

# Community Empowerment through Prayer

By Gillian Panigot

**“I BELIEVE PRAYER IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT RECONNECTS US WITH THE HEART OF OUR LOVING SAVIOR AND OUR BEST FRIEND,”**

says Jacqueline Rae Martinez, graduate student in the TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program at Andrews University.

Gwendoline Albright Ndikumagenge, who graduated from Andrews with a Master’s degree in Architecture in May 2020, agrees. “Prayer is like a direct call line to the most important Being in the universe who knows everything about us and cares for us.”

Jacqueline and Gwendoline served as co-leaders of the Andrews University Prayer Warriors team for the 2019–2020 school year. In addition to praying with students before and after chapel, they joined with other prayer warriors at a 7 a.m. prayer meeting each Monday through Friday in the Campus Center. “It was a blessing to see how God would meet our needs through each other,” says Jacqueline.

On March 12, the president and provost led a student town hall regarding the University’s decision to switch to remote education due to COVID-19. Jacqueline and Gwendoline began to consider whether the support of Prayer Warriors would end, or was there a way to keep the prayer furnace going? They decided that the campus needed prayer more than ever.

The Prayer Warriors began to engage their Instagram audience, and the 7 a.m. prayer meetings moved to online Zoom calls. The group prayed for the Andrews community as a whole — administration, faculty, staff, students, family, friends and each country represented. They prayed for the leaders of nations, frontline workers, universities across the country and for the entire world in crisis.

Gwendoline recalls, “It turned out to be our source of energy for the day because it would give us a reason



▲ Gwendoline Albright Ndikumagenge and Jacqueline Rae Martinez

to wake up early and really commit our day to the Lord. We were able to reach, worship and pray with people that we wouldn’t have otherwise because we were advertising this prayer meeting through our Instagram ‘good morning’ posts.”

Jacqueline and Gwendoline were thrilled to see attendees open up and share thoughts on the daily Scripture passage. They observed how the same text would impact different people in a variety of ways, and each person would have a way to pray from the text.

“I have seen prayer become an even more intricate part of the Andrews community,” says Jacqueline. “I have been able to feel the blessing of others pray for me and lift me up, and I, too, get to lift up my community in prayers.”

She adds, “Prayer throughout this time of uncertainty and adjustments has been exactly what we needed. . . Prayer is what has kept us grounded and able to push forward due to our loving Savior’s provision. He has been using His people to reach His people, and it has been beautiful to see that and take part in it!”

Gwendoline, too, has felt the power of prayer. “The idea that this season was not a surprise to God comforts me every single day,” she says. “Overall, prayer brings out an unexpected strength, motivation, hope and peace that surpasses all understanding — like He promises.” ■

Gillian Panigot, Media Communications manager and FOCUS editor, Andrews University

# Bienvenida al Nuevo Coordinador Hispano de la Asociación de Indiana

Como muchos saben, llevé a cabo una gran parte de mi ministerio en la Asociación de Indiana. Durante veinticinco años tuve el privilegio de pastorear diez iglesias en cuatro distritos del estado, y de ser por un tiempo, coordinador hispano de la asociación.

Como muchos saben, llevé a cabo una gran parte de mi ministerio en la Asociación de Indiana. Durante veinticinco años tuve el privilegio de pastorear diez iglesias en cuatro distritos del estado, y de ser por un tiempo, coordinador hispano de la asociación. En los años siguientes llegaron otros colegas en el ministerio, Rubén Rivera, Orlando Vásquez, Antonio Rosario y Víctor Jaeger, quienes sirvieron con éxito como coordinadores.

Cuando comencé mi responsabilidad como coordinador había solo una iglesia hispana organizada y un grupo que se estaba iniciando en la ciudad de Indianapolis. Gracias a la fidelidad de los hermanos, de los pastores hispanos y del liderazgo efectivo de los coordinadores, la asociación cuenta hoy con dieciséis iglesias y compañías hispanas, con casi dos mil miembros. Para mí es un placer presentar al nuevo coordinador hispano para la Asociación de Indiana, el pastor Noel Ojeda.

Noel Ojeda procede de Cuba, hijo de un pastor que trabajó en Cuba por varios años y que llegó junto con su familia a los Estados Unidos en el año 1995 en calidad de refugiado. En el año 1999 Noel sintió el llamado de Dios para ser pastor, así que decidió estudiar para el ministerio en Atlantic Union College (abreviado AUC). Después de graduarse de dicha institución en el año 2002, el pastor Ojeda comenzó su ministerio en la Asociación de Southern New England pastoreando dos iglesias en el estado de Connecticut. En el año 2003 la asociación lo envió a la Universidad Andrews

para estudiar una Maestría en Divinidad. Se graduó en el año 2005 y regresó a la Asociación de Southern New England para servir como pastor. En el año 2013 fue nombrado coordinador hispano de esa misma asociación. Sirvió en esa capacidad hasta que aceptó el llamado de la Asociación de Indiana.

El pastor Ojeda y su esposa Jackeline han estado casados por dieciséis años, y tienen dos hijos, Nathaniel y Elizabeth. Es interesante saber que a toda la familia le encanta la música; el pastor toca la trompeta, y la esposa y los hijos cantan alabanzas a Dios. Le pregunté al pastor qué es lo que más le agrada del ministerio. Me respondió que su gran pasión es evangelismo, lo que incluye ayudar a los hermanos a ganar almas para Cristo. También le interesa trabajar con los jóvenes, fortalecer las familias y plantar nuevas congregaciones. Pero a la vez sabe que no es posible hacer nada sin el poder de Dios. De manera que ha mantenido por años la costumbre de orar por teléfono con dos amigos pastores a las 5:30 de la mañana cinco días de la semana.

Estamos agradecidos porque Dios está en el timón de la iglesia y dirige su obra. No hay duda de que con el cambio del liderazgo hispano en la Asociación de Indiana nuestro Dios nos seguirá guiando a la victoria. Pido sus oraciones por el pastor Ojeda y su familia para que puedan ser usados para el avance de la obra de Dios en esta asociación. ■



▲ Carmelo Mercado

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*Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.*



# Unshaken and Unafraid

By Laura Fierce

Jamil and Vanessa (Hernandez) Hairston met in high school at Georgia-Cumberland Academy and went on to study at Southern Adventist University. Vanessa majored in Elementary Education and Jamil in Clinical Psychology, and they were married during their senior year.

Everything was going according to plan until they felt called into ministry. Vanessa had considered ministry in the past but was unsure whether to use her gifts in a classroom or church setting. Jamil had experienced a change of heart and was beginning to witness the purpose God was giving him through mentoring others and speaking up front, something he never imagined with his fear of public speaking.

“We didn’t want to stay at Southern for another two years,” says Jamil. “It would have been a waste of time — we were already graduating. But we applied to Andrews University for the Master of Divinity program saying, ‘If it’s God’s plan, it’ll happen.’”

After graduating in spring 2018, the Hairstons wanted to get jobs in their fields, but things did not work out that way. “Doors kept getting closed, and no one was offering us jobs,” Vanessa says. “I just knew God had a plan for us. We continued on the journey and stopped looking for people to affirm what God was doing. Instead we let God affirm what He was calling us to do.”

Soon their prayers were answered when they were accepted to the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews that fall. They found a home and their finances came together after working in summer ministry. “It was very clear we needed to be here,” Vanessa says with a smile.

But the transition of accepting this new direction was neither simple nor easy. “It’s irritating when you’ve worked so hard for something for a really long time, you reach the finish line and then you don’t feel



Benjamin Williams

▲ The Hairstons took a weekend to explore the beautiful city of Chicago for Vanessa’s birthday.

like you want to do that anymore,” Jamil says. “I’m not doing what I just spent four years preparing to do, but what I feel called to do people aren’t affirming at all.”

Vanessa felt those frustrations as well. “I’m a schedule-based kind of person. I like routine. At Southern, it was easy to categorize God in my life — how far He could go and how much I could trust Him,” Vanessa explains. “But when we graduated we were married and independent, we had a house, we had food stamps and had people over to eat all the time. Then when we moved here; we were so poor. We would be worried about having enough money.”

Despite their limited finances, God continued to meet their needs. Several times a bill would come for which they did not have funding — and then they would get a check in the mail. “I got one that said, ‘In 2012 you pumped gas at a BP where there was a leak, so here is money from the lawsuit.’ Just out of nowhere! We’d speak somewhere, and people would give

financial donations to us,” Vanessa says. “We pay for school out of pocket and God has brought us through every time — sometimes it’s right to the deadline, but it’s every time.”

While at Andrews, Jamil and Vanessa have become active members of the campus community. They are on a team developing a Divinity Honors Society that aims to give a platform for people to strive for and achieve academic and real-life excellence.

Jamil works in the Andreasen Center for Wellness as a fitness associate and personal trainer. “I feel like God is teaching us the different crafts He wants us to work on and master. Before coming here, I never thought I would help people with fitness or do personal training — that was born here.”

Vanessa sings for various campus programs and is the student worship pastor at One Place Fellowship. “I get to interact with the other worship leaders, the team of pastors, the singers and the bands. I really enjoy it a lot,” said Vanessa. She also is the vice president of Operations for the Women’s Clergy Network, an organization to create a community where women clergy on campus access resources, develop their professional skills and find community.

“I think this is a season of training. God is calling us to put down good roots, solid roots,” Jamil says.

Vanessa agrees. “I’m trying to grow my roots deeper and, in doing so, God is leading me closer to His heart. He is reminding me that His strength is made perfect in my weakness, not in my perfection. That’s a consistent lesson He’s trying to teach us.”

Jamil always has looked for affirmation from people and his career. Learning to look to God instead for this affirmation has been a process. He notes, “Something we’ve been trying to grow in is knowing our calling, having confidence in that call and what God can do through us. Looking to God and trusting He would sustain us was a huge leap of faith.”

The Hairstons are unshaken and unafraid of where the call will lead them. “For the future, we can say that we know God has a place for us that may not necessarily be created yet. We’re okay with that, and we’re okay with waiting for that,” Vanessa explains.

Jamil would like to combine his passion for people, ministry and fitness, and Vanessa would love to work

in a church, school or school chaplain/Bible teacher setting where she can dedicate time to Jamil’s ministry.

Vanessa says, “As of right now we don’t know where we’re going yet, but we are looking forward to ministering together as partners, wherever we will be.” ■

*Laura Fierce, student writer, University Communication, Andrews University*



Magy Salazar

▲ Vanessa and Jamil spoke together for an evangelistic series about the nature of God.



Caleb Josh

▲ Jamil and Vanessa Hairston were married their senior year at Southern Adventist University.



BY HANNAH GALLANT

# A Gentle Leading

Old textbooks, a whiteboard, dried glue sticks, half-sharpened colored pencils, crayons — these were the things young Rachel Heffelfinger played with as she made lesson plans and graded for her imaginary class.

“I always thought I was going to teach kindergarten, because I loved little kids,” she says.

Rachel had a simple plan: go to college, move back home to rural Ohio, and teach at a public school in the local area, preferably within the county in which she’d grown up.

When it came time to choose a college, Rachel wanted to go to a Christian university. She had attended public school previously and knew what it was like to be the only Seventh-day Adventist. “I wanted a Christian environment, close enough to go back home if I wanted to.”

Growing up, Rachel lived two hours away from Andrews University. She would go to the campus at least once or twice a year. Everything pointed to Andrews, except for finances. But then the pieces began to fall together. Rachel’s mom got a job at Andrews.

“If she hadn’t been there, I wouldn’t have been there,” says Rachel.

Rachel’s resolve to be a teacher never wavered during her time at Andrews. She started her bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education and Integrated Science and didn’t look back. Originally a five-year program, Rachel’s goal was to complete it in four years.

“The Physics Department quickly became my second home. The people were always open and welcoming. When I had time in between classes, I would often visit with the administrative assistant or study in one of the extra rooms.”

During the second semester of her freshman year, Rachel sat in a hard-back pew in Pioneer Memorial Church on a Tuesday morning during Week of Prayer. The speaker that day presented on student missions. Rachel had always determined she would never be a

▼ Rachel Heffelfinger posed with her fellow Education classmates at Andrews University.

*Whenever school or life became too much, I found myself drawn outside.*

Courtesy Rachel Heffelfinger







Sarah Gordon

Sarah Gordon

▲ Rachel Heffelfinger teaches science classes at Hong Kong Adventist Academy.

▲ Rachel Heffelfinger prepares a PowerPoint for one of her classes.

student missionary but, as she sat there, she had the distinct thought, “*You are going.*” She tried to push it away, but it kept coming up — a gentle, persistent nudge.

“Sophomore year rolled around and I’m thinking, *‘I still have years to go. I don’t have to worry about this,’*” she reflects.

Rachel continued to push thoughts of student missions away. She buried herself in her classes and her leadership role in the Astronomy Club. In her free time on weekends, she volunteered at the Kingman Observatory.

For Rachel, stars were a connection to her home in Ohio. “It started out with bonfires on most Friday nights in the summer. After dark with my dad, we would watch the stars. I learned to love the natural beauty of the stars,” she explains.

At Andrews, stars remained one of the ways she felt drawn to God. “Whenever school or life became too much, I found myself drawn outside. There, under the star-filled sky, I was able to give God all of my worries and fears about where He was taking me.”

These worries and fears didn’t abate, but once she hit her junior year, Rachel started to think more seriously about being a student missionary. She told her parents and started looking for places she might want to go.

Soon it was her senior year and she found herself back in the pew in PMC during fall semester Week of Prayer, listening to a speaker talk about student missions yet again. However, this time Rachel didn’t push it away. She went to Campus Ministries to get the paperwork she needed to fill out for her application.

“I remember thinking to myself, *‘This changes my plans, but I’m still going to fit this into my life,’*” Rachel says.

As she began to fill out the student missions application, Rachel created a mental list of her expectations: she didn’t want to serve alone and she preferred to go somewhere without a significant language barrier. After she completed all but two portions of the application, she set it aside to finish after Christmas break.

“I always found a way to push it off because it wasn’t in my original plans,” she explains. “I kept asking God repeatedly: *‘Where am I going? What do You want me to do? Why do You want me there?’* But He was silent.”

After the break, Rachel’s plans took another hit when she had an interview with Tom Decker, principal at Hong Kong Adventist Academy (HKAA), on January 21. These interviews were a requirement of the Andrews University Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, and Rachel had grown quite used to explaining to each interviewer that





William Rios

▲ The Hong Kong Adventist Academy staff gathered for a yearbook photo.

she was intending to take a student mission year after graduation.

“He was the only person who, when I said I was going as a student missionary next year, turned and said, ‘You want to be a student missionary. Do you want to be an actual missionary?’” Rachel recalls.

Decker told her to fill out an online application form — something Rachel thought was pointless because he wasn’t even looking for a science teacher at the time.

“After the interview, I was talking with friends and I couldn’t explain it, but Hong Kong felt right. For the first time in a really long time, it was not what I had originally wanted but I was kind of okay with that,” she explains. “I asked God: ‘If you want me in Hong Kong, make it very plain to me. Close the doors that need closed and open the ones that need opened.’”

A week-and-a-half after her interview with Decker, Rachel got an email that her student missions application had been deactivated. She began the process of redoing it.

Three weeks after the interview and during spring Week of Prayer, three years to the day of her first call to student missions, Rachel received the second email from Decker. In it he told her that he did indeed need a science teacher, and he offered her a second interview.

After calling her dad, Rachel picked up her Bible and prayer journal and went to a lobby in her residence hall. She flipped back to her entry after the first interview and the pieces started to fall into place. “*What if the deactivation of the student missions application was a door closing? What if the second interview email was a door opening?*” she wondered. She thought back to the original student missions chapel. “*God said I was going. He never said where or how. He said, ‘Go.’*”

Rachel accepted the second interview for two days later on a Thursday. The next day she went to vespers in the evening. During the praise time, Rachel stood and felt as if God was speaking to her as she heard “Do It Again” by Elevation Worship play around her.

“I’ve seen you move, come move the mountains. And I believe I’ll see You do it again. You made a way, where there was no way.”

“God moved so many mountains in my life to give me Hong Kong,” she explains. “When I accepted that I was going as God’s missionary, I had unknowingly accepted the job — I had accepted Hong Kong.”

A few weeks later, Rachel heard that her friend from Andrews also would be teaching at HKAA. It was an answer to her earlier prayer to not go alone. “I was going because God had said I was supposed to be there. I didn’t have to worry about the little things because He had already gotten them done.”

Rachel graduated that May and moved to Hong Kong in August. It was her first time on a plane and her first time out of the U.S. She began teaching science for grades 6–7 and high school physics.

Shortly after she arrived, protests started to pick up in Hong Kong. The school closed for five days as people were protesting and closing down streets. “I learned to watch out for large crowds wearing masks or black,” Rachel explains.

Despite the chaos of the protests, Rachel clearly saw God leading in Hong Kong. One



day in late August, the high school math teacher came to her, saying he was willing to donate leftover endowment funds so she could buy a telescope. She immediately began searching and found a telescope within the budget.

For Rachel, this ability to continue sharing her love for stars was yet another reminder of how God was moving mountains in her life. “In the end, I found myself with a dream I wouldn’t let myself dream (not even to God), because I thought it would never happen — bringing astronomy to high school students.”

In December, the protests started to calm down but it was a short-lived peace. During Chinese New Year at the end of January, Hong Kong implemented a series of travel restrictions in response to COVID-19. Rachel’s school moved to online learning and, since then, they have finished almost an entire semester completely online.

“This has been one eventful year. It started out with me moving halfway around the world, only to find myself trying to navigate the intricacies of teaching students who had families on both sides of the protests. Just when the

protests were calming down, we were hit with the coronavirus and I had to learn how to teach online. But, in the end, I would not trade this experience for the world. It has taught me so much about who I am as a person, a teacher and a servant of God,” Rachel explains.

During the 2020–2021 school year, Rachel will be teaching science for grades 7–8, religion for grade 6, and high school physics at HKAA. She is hoping to build a small astronomy program for the school, mentor one of the new teachers and help with an outdoor school event, a week where they take students out into nature and teach them important survival skills.

“My entire story is one of God’s leading,” she says. “Sometimes I wonder why God has done so much to bring me here. Throughout this experience, I find myself thinking that perhaps the purpose behind this, or one of the many purposes, is for God to reveal how He has been writing a story for my life all along.” ■

*Hannah Gallant, contract writer, University Communication, Andrews University*

▼ *Left to right: Lauren Brackbill, Becky Buhrke, Perla Gallegos and Rachel Heffelfinger visited the pier in Sai Kung.*



Lauren Brackbill





# Reflections on the

# Unexpected

This past March brought an unprecedented set of circumstances to Andrews University's corner of Southwest Michigan. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the campus transitioned to remote learning for the spring and summer semesters. Faculty, staff and students moved from full classrooms and cafeteria study sessions to rushed goodbyes and deserted parking lots.

The following reflections capture a glimpse from three Andrews community members of what it was like to live through and respond to the disruptive reality of COVID-19. Learning continued. Community strengthened. Hope persisted.

What I couldn't see during those mid-March moments of hug-less and hand-shake-less goodbyes was that learning would still happen.

sentiment. If 41 years of teaching has taught me anything, it's that face-to-face contact, lively discussion, reading aloud together, exchanging hallway banter and conferencing shoulder-to-shoulder over rough drafts is what I do best and enjoy most. Having to substitute all of these proven paths to learning for whatever my 68 students and I might accomplish by switching exclusively to distance education was *not* my idea of a good time. But the State [of Michigan] and the University had issued a mandate: go home and stay there until further notice.

Andrews University is proud of its claim, "World

Changers Made Here."

But suddenly our world had changed drastically, not of our making and not for the better. What I couldn't see during those mid-March moments of hug-less and hand-shake-less goodbyes was that learning would still happen. But much of this learning, for me, at least, would bear little resemblance to what was outlined on my spring semes-



Lloyd Martinez

▲ Beverly Matiko, at the spring Honors Agape Feast, enjoyed speaking to students prior to COVID-19 changes on campus.

## Of Learning: Unexpected Lessons

### "I'M SORRY WE HAD TO END THIS WAY."

The plaintive email sign-off both touched my heart and made me laugh aloud. On the one hand, it sounded like a break-up line from "Beverly Hills 90210," a teen drama I had enjoyed long before my student was born. On the other hand, I shared this young writer's

teacher's four syllabi, original or revised.

I learned that help can arrive even before I ask. As I struggled with how to manage student papers online in my Creative Writing class, one student emailed me with this kind offer: "Would you like me to set up a Google drop box?" Problem solved.

I learned to be less reticent about asking for help. A technology support guru spent a late night telephone session tutoring me on how to scan and post a chapter for students who had somehow arrived home sans textbook. A colleague gave me a crash course on exchanging my favorite green ink marking pen for an online grading system. All I had to do was follow the advice in Matthew 7: *Ask, and it shall be given you.* I've always found it difficult to ask for anything. Finally, I may be getting the hang of it.

I learned that conversation can be much more than pleasant diversion. It can be healing and restorative. One

## I learned that conversation can be much more than pleasant diversion. It can be healing and restorative.

colleague telephones me regularly just to check in, to see how I am coping in solitary confinement. I am beyond grateful for her attention. As I write, it has been 75 days since I've touched another human. I have new appreciation for the truth of Genesis 2: *It is not good that [anyone] should be alone.*

I learned that schoolmates needn't disappear after graduation. My own classmates who shared an undergraduate year abroad at Newbold College in England arranged a Zoom meeting on a recent Sunday afternoon. We spent over two hours online, catching up with friends in Australia, Iceland, England and coast-to-coast in the U.S. We joked, commiserated, kibitzed, reminisced and felt like teenagers again.

I learned the benefits of starting each day by reading a new poem aloud twice. When life as I knew it changed last March, I chose Kentucky farmer, environmentalist

and poet Wendell Berry to help me become more centered, more focused and more appreciative of the wonders of carefully crafted language. Berry's poetry continues to shape each morning's meditation.

I learned that you can create a book club while sheltering in place. Each evening, I connect with a dear one through FaceTime. Together, we read several pages of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* — a first read for me, too many to count for my responsive reading partner.

I learned that the Beatles were right about this: "I get by with a little help from my friends." Actually, I'm pretty sure this simple claim is something I've always known. But I've never had to put it to the test as much as I have these past months. So far, we're all passing — and with surprisingly good marks, too! Praise be. ■

*Beverly Matiko, associate professor of Communication and English*



▲ Jeff Boyd produced the *Andrews Speaks* podcast at his home work station.


## Of Community: Unexpected Places

**WHEN STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY WERE EXILED FROM CAMPUS BY THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, WE WERE FORCED TO MARCH TO OUR NEW HOME ONLINE.**

As a learning community, we were suddenly compelled to ask how to *sing the Lord's song in a strange land* (Psalm 137). How would we continue to pursue our mission in this most unexpected place?

With my key responsibilities in the Research office now on hold, President Luxton invited me to produce a new season of the *Andrews Speaks* podcast that would





include an additional video component. The podcast's theme, "Pressing Together (Remotely)," was a revision of Student Life's co-curricular theme for the year.

Because I enjoy both audio and video production, I was excited about this opportunity to produce helpful and hopeful content for the Andrews diaspora. I wanted to share conversations that would support us through this difficult time but would also speak to life beyond COVID-19.

At first, we hoped to record the presentations in a campus studio, but when Michigan's governor issued a stay-at-home order, each professor had to record his or her presentation on whatever equipment was on hand. Although the production quality varied, the personal touch from the speakers' private spaces fit the moment, as we were all using Zoom at home extensively.

Each week of the series focused on a different topic — change, health, science, social ethics and creativity. These issues were chosen because they speak to life during the pandemic as well as beyond it. The skills, habits and attitudes needed to thrive during the coronavirus disruption are the same that we need throughout our lives.

In addition to these presentations that anchored each episode, chaplain José Bourget hosted a recurring segment where he spoke on-location around campus, drawing spiritual lessons from objects like garbage bins and an access ramp. Carlisle Sutton, who worked with community engagement and service, shared videos of social action initiatives led by student groups and academic departments. These compelling stories, from addressing homelessness in Chicago to developing a children's center in Africa, offer depth to the Andrews tagline — World Changers Made Here.

Although we all wish we could have remained on campus this semester, being forced out of our comfort zones made us learn unexpected lessons. Some of us have experienced continued loss during this pandemic, and I do not mean to minimize this difficult reality. At the same time, we have learned and grown through these experiences because we had to become even more intentional

about pursuing our educational goals and even more proactive about nurturing our spiritual commitments. Despite our significant disruption, I was thankful for the opportunity to produce this series. I hope the episodes were encouraging and engaging for listeners.

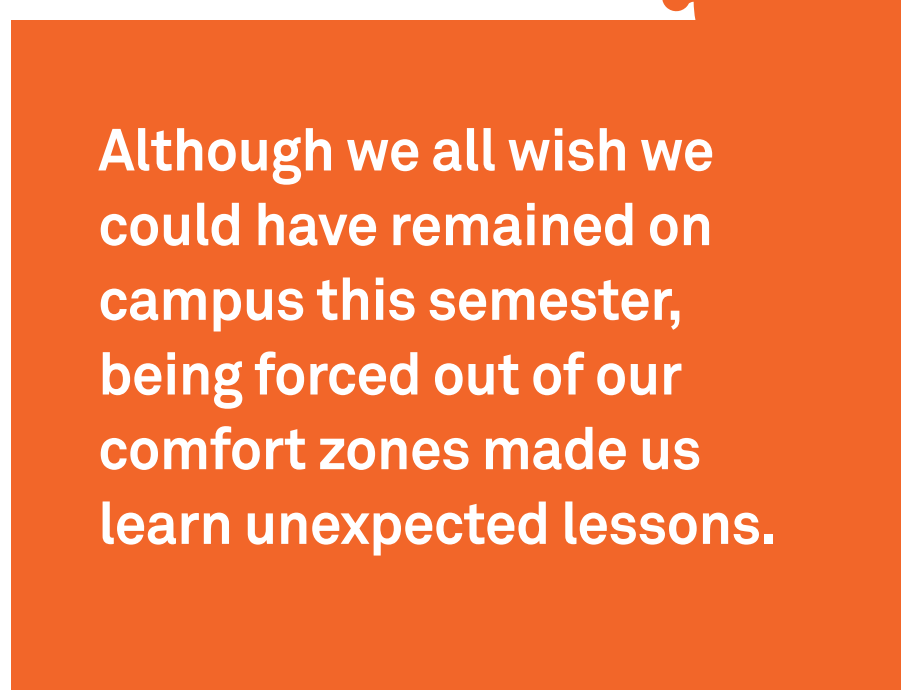
While we continue to experience significant uncertainty, God has used this pandemic to teach us to be resilient, to trust Him when we do not see a way forward, to find creative ways to support each other even when we cannot be in the same residence hall room, classroom or church sanctuary, and to sing the Lord's song no matter our circumstances. With wisdom, we will remember these critical lessons as God continues to lead us through this dark valley together. ■

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*You can find Andrews Speaks at [andrews.edu/podcasts](https://andrews.edu/podcasts).*

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*Jeff Boyd, Media Relations manager, University Communication*



**Although we all wish we could have remained on campus this semester, being forced out of our comfort zones made us learn unexpected lessons.**

# Of Hope: Unexpected Endings

**I ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE A GRADUATION SPEECH, BUT I DID NOT ENVISION THAT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS — AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CLASS OF 2020.**

After President Luxton and Provost Arthur broke the news that Andrews would transition to a fully online presence, it felt like time slowed down. The following 48 hours felt like months, and many of us simultaneously tried to pack our bags, say our goodbyes and cram what we thought were six weeks into less than six days.

**I am happy that we have the privilege to feel sad because it means we have things to miss; I am thankful that I feel heartbroken because it means that I have had friends I loved and who loved me.**

As we reflect on the future and what could have been, I know that many of us find ourselves feeling like we're being selfish. I certainly have. In the midst of the fear and panic that were gripping others across the nation and the world, I found myself bitter. I was bitter we had to say goodbye to our friends sooner than we had originally planned; upset that we, especially those who were the first in their families to attend university, didn't get the gratification of walking across the stage to receive diplomas; and frustrated that although other students will return to campus — to the almost stifling Michigan humidity to march around the flag mall, attend more co-curriculars and sign up for yet another unnecessary club hoodie, we will not have that opportunity.

Yet, at the same time, I find myself smiling. With tears running down my face, I am

happy that we have the privilege to feel sad because it



Andrews Cardinal

▲ Brandon Shin graduated in May 2020 with a BS in Biology from Andrews University.

means we have things to miss; I am thankful that I feel heartbroken because it means that I have had friends I loved and who loved me. This opportunity to feel is one of the greatest gifts we are given in this lifetime. It is one of the things that makes us so distinctly human and our relationships so distinctly meaningful.

So, as we move into the future and whatever that looks like, I want to encourage you all to stay strong and stay rooted in one another. 1 Corinthians 13 says *the greatest of these is love*, but I think that equally as great is hope. Whether you believe that God has everything under control, or you believe that people have the capacity to bounce back from almost anything, hope inspires us to believe that tomorrow can be better than today and that we can play an active part in creating that reality.

In the future, our kids, nephews, nieces, cousins, will read about this time — COVID-19 and the world's response — in textbooks and wonder how it's relevant to their lives. I know I do the same with history today. And yes, we can argue that it's an example of political strife, greed, cultural models or whatever people end up talking about. But beyond those things, please help them to understand, to realize the preciousness in everyday moments before they are forced to, and use your memories as a foundation to build your life in a way where every moment matters. ■

Brandon Shin, Bachelor of Science in Biology, Class of 2020



▲ David Springer

## A spiritual oasis

Since August 2019, David C. Springer has been studying at Andrews University to earn his master's in Social Work as part of the Fulbright Foreign Student Scholarship Program.

"I have been working in the helping professions for my entire adult life. Social work means that I utilize the skills of leadership and communication to fulfill my passion for service to others that God has been developing in me since I was 16 years old," Springer explains.

Before coming to Andrews, he was completing his thesis for an M.A. in Communications Studies at the University of the Southern Caribbean and working

as a prison officer with the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service.

There, his latest post was in the Communication Department where he worked on community outreach, media and public relations, as well as a rebranding campaign for the entire service and creating a Spanish training course for new recruits in 2018.

Springer's assignments motivated him to further prepare to work as a change agent. In light of this, he submitted his application to the Fulbright program. The Fulbright process took almost a year and included taking the GRE, completing an interview with a panel of former Fulbright scholars and applying to universities. He was accepted by Andrews University, Columbia University, Florida State University and University of Pennsylvania.

"Receiving the Fulbright scholarship was a humbling experience for me. God showed me in one act that He was in charge of my life. Despite my own deficiencies and foibles, He is making something positive out of me," he says.

Springer ultimately chose to study at Andrews because it had the most family-friendly environment with the lowest cost of living and a quality, educational experience. He is the first Fulbright Foreign Student Scholar to attend Andrews University.

While at Andrews, he has served as brand manager for the Andrews University Graduate Student Association (AUGSA), on the University's Institutional Diversity & Inclusion Council, and as a bilingual social work intern at Neighbor to Neighbor.

In response to COVID-19, he worked on a collaborative effort between AUGSA, God's Abundant Pantry and Michigan Conference's ACS-DR team to support adversely affected students. He is a member of several clubs and associations, including the Social Work, French, Haitian and African clubs and the

Andrews University Latino Association (AULA).

"I've learned so much from Andrews University," he says. "I've realized that the experience at Andrews is holistic, developing the whole person and not only academic pursuits."

Springer's interactions with the Andrews community have opened opportunities for him to sing at several churches—he hopes to impact others for God through music. He also would like to complete an MDiv at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and is waiting to see how God will lead in that possibility.

"My experience at Andrews University has further affirmed that my life has to be one of service to others and humility before God. The Christ-centered focus of Andrews has been a refreshing breath of air for me," he says. "It has proven to be an oasis for my soul, spiritually." ■

*Hannah Gallant, contract writer, University Communication, Andrews University*

**"GOD SHOWED ME IN ONE ACT THAT HE WAS IN CHARGE OF MY LIFE. DESPITE MY OWN DEFICIENCIES AND FOIBLES, HE IS MAKING SOMETHING POSITIVE OUT OF ME."**



# AMITA Health extends the healing ministry of Christ abroad



Courtesy AMITA Health

▲ Medical resident Dr. Kelley Dilliard gives a knee injection to a patient under Dr. Michael Ladewski's guidance.



Courtesy AMITA Health

▲ Katherine Lluen-Nunez (second from left) and Dr. Mary Lewis (right) help care for a 5-year-old who had a seizure. The girl's mother is at left.

Hospital staff are committed to not only serve those in the local community, but internationally as well. Last November, a team of 38 AMITA Health associates and physicians traveled to El Salvador for a week to treat those in need.

“This team truly embraced the call in their hearts to serve others,” said Ann Marie Niemer, RN-BC, system director of Ambulatory Care Management. “We spent the week setting up medical clinics in areas of extreme poverty. We listened to patients’ concerns, prescribed medications, performed procedures and, most importantly, we extended the healing ministry of Jesus to all.”

At one site, a woman came running into the medical clinic with her 5-year-old daughter, Sonia, who was having a febrile seizure. In the 93-degree heat in El Salvador, the missionaries quickly sprang to action, taking the little girl to the only air-conditioned room at the school where they had set up the medical clinic.

The physicians and nurses started an IV and, thankfully, the seizures stopped before the 15-minute critical mark. Assisting was Dr. Rema Johnson, an emergency medicine physician, and Heidie Cruz, an ER patient care technician, translated for the mother and father, who were clearly distraught because this was Sonia’s first experience with a seizure.

Nurse Katherine Lluen-Nunez came from the pharmacy with medications and administered them. Once little Sonia woke

up, the team made a toy for her by blowing up a purple examination glove as a balloon. Sonia took the “balloon” and hugged it.

The physicians asked the mother to bring Sonia to see them the next day and gave her \$20 to pay for the necessary transportation. They arrived the next day and had been adhering to the medication schedule as directed. Sonia appeared as perky as ever. The family took pictures with the providers and thanked everyone for their help.

“Looking back at each day, it’s easy to see that God’s fingerprints were all over each moment,” said Dr. Johnson. “He had us all in His palm all day long.”

This was the third international mission trip for Karen Moore, RNC-OB, director of Women & Infant Services, who said she feels an innate need to give to others and spread the word of Jesus.

“We served close to 400 people a day who waited in long lines under the beating sun and stifling heat just to be seen by American medical providers — and there was not one complaint!” Moore said. “It makes me feel grateful for clean water, safe food, a job and the ability to have access to great healthcare, because many of the people we served in El Salvador that week had none of these. I make it a point to thank Jesus every day for all of my blessings and commit to Him that I will honor these blessings by giving my time, talents and finances to those less fortunate by no fault of their own.” ■

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*Julie Busch, associate vice president, AMITA Health*



Courtesy AMITA Health

▲ Adam Maycock

## AMITA Health names Adam Maycock president and CEO of Hinsdale, La Grange medical centers

AMITA Health has named Adam Maycock as the new president and CEO of AMITA Health Adventist medical centers at Hinsdale and La Grange.

Maycock, who was serving as interim president and CEO, assumed the role permanently effective July 12. He succeeds Michael Murrill who left the organization last month for a promotion within AdventHealth, a parent organization of AMITA Health.

Maycock joined AMITA Health Adventist Hinsdale and La Grange in January 2017 as chief operating officer, bringing extensive leadership experience to the organization. In this role, he managed the successful renovation of the cardiac catheterization labs on both medical campuses, as well as the expansion of the outpatient pavilion at La Grange, now home to the Center for Advanced Joint Replacement and the Cardiac Center of Excellence. In addition to leading



▲ Adam Maycock speaks during the dedication service for a new outpatient pavilion.

day-to-day operations, Maycock has played an integral role in leading both medical campuses through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is an honor to step into the president and CEO role for the Hinsdale and La Grange campuses, continuing our mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus to our community," Maycock said. "The commitment to our mission is strong from staff, nurses, physicians and leadership. I am excited to lead this group forward."

Maycock came to AMITA Health from AdventHealth where he worked in market research, strategy and ambulatory and acute care operations for more than 14 years.

"We could not be more pleased to have Adam seamlessly transition into the lead role for both our Hinsdale and La Grange medical campuses," said Thor Thordarson, AMITA Health chief operating officer. "As we continue the integration of the Hinsdale and La Grange medical campuses as part of our strategic plan to best serve the community, I'm confident Adam's leadership will continue to bring this vision to fruition."

Maycock obtained his undergraduate degree in marketing from Oakwood University and earned an MBA from Rollins College, Crummer Graduate School of Business. He and his wife, Khadja, have three daughters, the youngest of whom was born at AMITA Health Hinsdale. They are members of the Bolingbrook church.

AMITA Health ([www.AMITAhealth.org](http://www.AMITAhealth.org)) is a joint operating company formed by AdventHealth in Altamonte Springs, Fla., and St. Louis-based Ascension. AMITA Health is the largest health system in Illinois, comprising 19 hospitals and more than 230 sites of care. The health system has 900 providers in its medical groups, more than 26,000 associates and 7,000 physician partners, and serves over 6.6 million residents in the greater Chicagoland area. ■

*Tim Nelson, System director, Communications and Media Relations*





## Lake Union mails stimulus checks to conferences

Over the last five months, the coronavirus pandemic has launched our world Church into unanticipated, challenging financial times. In response to the financial needs across the Lake Union, COVID-19 stimulus checks totaling \$600,000 were mailed on July 20 to the five local conferences, given in partnership with the North American Division (NAD).

In June, recognizing the financial challenges facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America due to COVID-19, the NAD voted a \$10 million stimulus package. This stimulus package was divided into three parts:

1) Five million dollars distributed to nine Unions and Guam. These funds were unrestricted, two-thirds tithe and one-third non-tithe. The only requirement was for the funds to be used for COVID-19 financial needs. These funds were issued and received by the Unions/Guam in mid-July.

2) Three million dollars to be distributed to the nine Unions and Guam during the last quarter of 2020.

3) Two million dollars available for AdventSource, Adventist Information Ministry, Christian Record Services, Media Ministries, North American Division Evangelism Institute, Oakwood University, Pacific Press and Seminars Unlimited. Part three funds would be distributed on a need only basis.

"The Lake Union and the local Conference administrative teams would like to express our deep appreciation and thanks to NAD chief financial officer, Randy Robinson, together with the NAD administration team for making these funds available to the division field," said Lake Union treasurer, Glynn Scott.

The NAD funds received totaled \$400,000 and the Lake Union matched these funds at 50 percent, for a total distribution to the local Conferences of \$600,000. These funds were distributed back to the local Conferences on a pro-rata basis, as follows:

**Illinois:** \$90,000

**Indiana:** \$78,000

**Lake Region:** \$90,000

**Michigan:** \$282,000

**Wisconsin:** \$60,000

The Lake Union stimulus funds represent the second in a multi-plan of financial assistance to local conferences during this COVID-19 pandemic. During the first round, support was given to churches unable to make monthly mortgage payments to the Revolving Fund. Provisions were made for churches to pay interest only for a four-month period.

The administration of the Lake Union continues to evaluate the financial situation of our churches and conferences during these challenging financial times, along with ways to reduce operational costs, with the goal of providing all the financial support possible to the local conferences for mission and ministry.

"Ministry and mission happen at all levels of our church," said Scott. "However, an important foundation of our core evangelism and witness ministry takes place at the local conference/church level. As a result, Union support is important, as we partner together for the building up of God's Kingdom." ■

*Debbie Michel, associate director of Communication, Lake Union Conference*



▲ Nicholas Brignoni playing the role of Peter fishing in a boat.

## Children's Sabbath Schools get creative with online lessons

When the Illinois stay-at-home order started, several Sabbath school teachers began to think of a different way they could still see their children. Denny Vicente, Elmhurst Church Sabbath school teacher, also was one who began thinking of how to see her beloved Cradle Roll students.

She didn't know when she would be able to have them in her class, let alone see them again. Afraid her Sabbath school students would forget the lessons and songs, she began thinking of how to continue reaching her students.

"Children's minds are like sponges and they retain everything they hear," says Vicente. "If they learn the good lessons found in the Bible when they are little, they will remember it when they are older. People take the little ones for granted and think they do not learn. But when they are older, you can see that what they learned as a child was important and they still remember."

This is when she began to offer interactive virtual online Sabbath school classes, starting with her small group of usual students, ages 0-3, from the Elmhurst Church. Soon, the class grew to include children to the age of 12 and began to

Courtesy Katherine Vicente





▲ Denny Vicente of Illinois' Elmhurst Church teaches the story of the five loaves and two fishes to her online Sabbath school class.

reach out to children from other states and countries.

Her lessons have included the stories of baby Isaac, disciples fishing, Jesus goes to church and, recently, Jesus feeds the 5,000. Vicente has even acted the role of Sarah (along with her husband as Abraham), invited Nicholas Brignoni (from Atlanta) to play the role of Peter fishing in a boat, and had one of her students dress as Jesus attending church and reading from a "scroll."

Now, every Friday Vicente sends the Zoom link to church members, family and friends. On Sabbath morning at 10 a.m., she sits by the piano in her family room and plays the children's favorite songs, acts out each lesson and gives the students "homework" to bring the next Sabbath. She also sends cards to each child with a note of encouragement, drawing and their memory verse.

When asked how she prepared such a class while working a full-time job from home, she simply said, "All for the love of my kids."

Vicente has been a Cradle Roll Sabbath school teacher at Elmhurst Church for over 18 years, and plans to continue teaching virtually until she can "hug [her] kids again."

### Friends and Praise

As the stay-at-home orders began to spread through each state, Sarah Canada, Belleville [Mich.] Church Sabbath school teacher, was wondering how to keep their young people connected with God.

"Truly, I felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit," she says. "I had a burden for our

young people and didn't want them to go without their worship time."

Together with her friend Kimberly Spare from the Village Church in Berrien Springs, Mich., they began to figure out what they could do to keep Sabbath school lessons going. They first started with a two-week program that featured the stories of the Second Coming of Jesus and lessons of the Bible.

"One of the hardest things for my family was not going to church, so I wanted to make sure there were options out there for our young people," says Canada. "The more we stayed at home, the more we wanted to make sure our kids had a way to worship together."

Canada, who teaches a multi-age group from 0-9, began adapting the Sabbath school lessons for ages 3-11 based on their regular Sabbath school programs.

"We felt that it'd be more fun to include more children, so we started to reach out to friends, pathfinders, adventurers, family members across the states, friends from Canada and school friends," she says. "That's how we started the Friends and Praise lessons."

Their goal was simple: to include as many children as possible. Families and their kids began sharing videos of special music, mission projects, Lego Bible stories and song services.

"At first we had a song service group singing, but then we had families recording different worship songs," Canada says. "I reached out to some of my favorite storytellers to share children's stories. My Aunt Stella, who usually helps



▲ Sarah Canada along with her two daughters, Lily and Leah, and her mother, Julie Wolf, lead song service during an episode of Friends and Praise.

me with VBS and lives out of state, helped with storytime and my friend, Michelle Pearson from Alaska, shared mission stories. The Lord just kept providing things and the video submissions and it was really such a blessing."

Individuals from the Michigan Conference saw what they were doing and asked if Canada could help host a children's program for their virtual camp meeting program. She and Spare have created 13 episodes of Friends and Praise during the course of quarantine to keep young worshipers connected to their church community, including a couple episodes for camp meeting.

"I knew it was reaching people because the devil would attack in different ways: videos would get lost or would take a long time to upload and other things," says Canada. "But God helped us get out an episode every week."

They hosted a virtual vacation Bible school the second week of July that will be used by several other Michigan churches.

"This is a way we could be in ministry together," she says of her family. "It was really a blessing for us since all of my family helped make this Sabbath school happen. We pray that they have been a blessing to many people, and we look forward to seeing what God will continue to do with Sabbath school, camp meeting, and virtual VBS." ■

Katherine Vicente, Elmhurst Church member, and Katie Fellows, Lake Union Communication assistant

## Embracing tech during pandemic, church adds five new members

Like many other churches in the North American Division, Lighthouse Hispanic Church in Winthrop Harbor, Ill., has not met since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, that has not stopped them from bringing people to the Word of God. Since the church began its virtual programs, they have reached several people who had never before attended Lighthouse Church and, as of June 6, have baptized five of them.

Lighthouse's lead pastor, Gilberto Bahena, says seeing five new members come to Christ solely through virtual meetings has been amazing; it also showed him how much of a ministry virtual and online worship programming can be.

"God uses different methods to reach people. In my opinion, the enemy tried to close our church down and halt our evangelism. However, God has His methods and is using technology to reach people," he said.

According to Bahena, what has made the church's outreach so successful is that they host both a Bible study and worship program via Zoom every single day. Having multiple programs daily has made it very easy for current church members to invite others who may be looking to hear more about Christ and the church.

"A lot of people in the world are looking for some type of hope right now. A link makes it a lot easier to provide that to others," Bahena said.

The accessibility proved to be a blessing for Mayra Guardado, one of the newly baptized members at Lighthouse Hispanic. She stated she had never attended a Christian church before but joined Lighthouse's online gatherings after a friend invited her. Guardado credits

Courtesy Gilberto Bahena



▲ Pastor Bahena gets ready to baptize new members, Rufina Medina and Juan Martinez.

the church's special emphasis on Bible study and the messages she heard as the main reasons she decided to take this step into a new life.

"I have changed. I feel good. I used to get frustrated easily," she said about her changed life. "I feel a lot more calm and at peace."

Similar to Guardado, Dionisia García is another newly baptized member who has only joined the church through virtual meetings. García says that the pandemic left her without a church as the Christian church she had been attending previously did not offer online services. Fortunately for her, a church member heard about her situation and invited her to study the Bible with Lighthouse Church.

"I feel like the Holy Spirit guided me to join," García said. "When God wants to use you, He will knock on your door."

She shared that God has shown Himself to her through several miracles in the last few months and it became clear that it was time to give her life to God.

"God has not failed me so I could not fail Him anymore," García said. "I feel joyous that God has defeated the enemy."

Lighthouse Church opened Sabbath, July 4, with a limited capacity of 50 people. García says that she was eager for the church to reopen so that she can meet the church members in person and get involved in the church ministry wherever God places her. However, she feels that the virtual meetings have been a true

blessing to many and hopes that they do not end soon.

"There are many people joining the church. They are being taught how to read the Word of God," García said. "Anything can be a ministry when you have enough faith."

Bahena relayed a similar sentiment as Garcia and says that even if the church opens, they do not plan to end the daily online meetings any time soon.

"I see something very positive here. Even though it is new to us and we did not know how to do it, we are learning and the church's response has been positive. This is a huge blessing," Bahena said. ■

*Joel Guerra is majoring in Public Relations and Business Administration at Southern Adventist University. He loves social media and local journalism.*



▲ Rufina Medina and Juan Martinez pose with Pastor Bahena after their baptism.

Courtesy Gilberto Bahena





Jeffrey Saelee

▲ Michigan Youth Rush member canvasses in a neighborhood in Dearborn, Mich., home to the largest population of Arab Americans in the United States.

## Youth literature evangelists canvass Detroit metropolitan area to reach the Middle East

Since July 6, the Michigan Conference has sponsored a youth outreach effort that ministers to the largest population of Arab Americans in the U.S.—the city of Dearborn of the greater Detroit region. Through Hope 2020, 32 youth and young adults between the ages of 15 and 25 from the Michigan Youth Rush literature evangelism ministry have received training on how to fundraise for mission work and conduct door-to-door literature distribution while exercising precautionary measures regarding COVID-19.

Dearborn is home to nearly 100,000 Arab Americans. The boom of the auto industry in the early 20th century with the Ford Motor Company, which has its headquarters in this metropolis, first drew Arab immigrants to the region. From there, immigrants from Middle Eastern countries experiencing wars and civil unrest—Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, and Syria—have been drawn to Dearborn and the surrounding area due to the vast network of faith communities, immigration services, and the

sub-economy that has been created by Arab Americans over the years. There are more than 11,000 small businesses owned by Arab Americans in the region that have employed more than 170,000 people, according to the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS).

This prompted literature ministries leaders to brainstorm ways to engage with the uniquely diverse community. They recognized this as an opportunity to reach the Middle East. Many residents have strong ties to relatives and loved ones who still live in the region.

“At first I asked, ‘What is the conference doing?’ then I said to myself, ‘What am I doing? I can’t just focus on what others are not doing. I’m a church leader. I can and should do something,’” said Kamil Metz, director of Literature Ministries of the Michigan Conference. This was the catalyst for Hope 2020.

“We set a goal to reach 10,000 homes in Dearborn with 10,000 sharing books and 50,000 Arabic *Balance Living* tracts. We are thrilled to have reached that goal within a month,” said Metz.

The summer program also served as an opportunity to fuel the youth’s spiritual lives through “SEAL Training” (Summer Evangelism and Literature), which ends August 6.

“In collaboration with the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries departments of the Michigan Conference, we

presented special training on how young people could get the most out of their devotional lives, know God’s will, make friends for God, and get and give Bible studies,” said Metz. “Our young people used their phones to reach out to their family, friends and church members to invite them to join them in the mission [by donating to the initiative]. We praise God for all those who were able to support this mission project.”

Fifty percent of the funds each of the youth raised goes toward school tuition, while the remaining percentage is used to pay for the literature for distribution.

In addition to the Arab-focused literature shared throughout Dearborn, the youth also distributed 40,000 *Story of Hope* books, 30,000 “COVID-19” *GLOW* tracts, and 10,000 “Hope for Families” *GLOW* tracts.

The youth are housed in a local school, along with leaders who conduct the program, and receive daily health screenings and temperature checks. They also wear masks and practice social distancing when going out into communities.

“Unexpected challenges were faced, and yet we praise God that He still allowed us to engage our young people in ministry training and in making a real difference,” said Metz. “By God’s grace, 130,000 pieces of literature were distributed this summer.” ■

Mylon Medley, NAD Office of Communication, and Kamil Metz, Literature Ministries director of Michigan Conference



Jeffrey Saelee

▲ Members of Michigan Youth Rush receive training during Hope 2020.



## An evangelism model that works

In early March, when COVID-19 was an unknown threat in the U.S., a group embarked on a unique type of retreat, one that would end up transforming the lives of several hundred people.

The weekend was an experiment that ended as a divinely innovative breakthrough in personal and public evangelism. Focused on “Christ’s method alone” for reaching the heart, it created an opportunity for any Michigan lay member to bring a non-Adventist friend and enjoy a relaxing retreat and an opportunity to study the Bible together.

The registration fee was simple: invite and bring a non-member friend, family member, neighbor, co-worker or church-attending visitor, and both would enjoy the weekend for free. For the first time in history, Camp Au Sable was banned to church members who weren’t accompanied by someone not of our faith!

Wes Peppers, Michigan Conference Evangelism coordinator, wasn’t sure how many would respond. He was hoping for a total of 50 to 75 people. However, the Lord brought almost 300, with nearly 200 non-Adventists! For some, this was the first “vacation” they had ever taken in their lives.

Attendees ranged from lifelong Christians of many denominations to agnostics and even atheists. Some had read the Bible through every year of their life, while others were reading it for the first time. “Camp Au Sable was packed to capacity for Jesus!” remarked Peppers, who also serves as Michigan’s associate Ministerial director.

One of the most significant things that happened is that guests willingly kept coming back to the meetings. They weren’t required, but the auditorium was packed every session. People were hungry for the Bible truth they were



Courtesy Wes Peppers

▲ Josh and Megan Clements attended the retreat. “My life has forever changed with Jesus. He made me clean. He made me whole. He gives me purpose and has given me a precious family,” said Josh, who was baptized on July 11.

learning, and the friendship they had with those who brought them broke down most every barrier. They were in a relaxed environment without the stress of daily life, and received with gladness the truth presented to them.

A young adult member from mid-Michigan invited several members in her family. They asked if they could also invite others, so a crew of about seven ladies came! Throughout the weekend, they were amazed as they learned Bible truth that they had never heard before including the Sabbath, the heavenly Sanctuary, and several prophecies. They were especially thankful as each topic was completely Bible-based and Christ-centered. Several of the ladies made commitments to follow Jesus fully and decided to begin keeping the Sabbath. Many others experienced miracles and freedom from many challenges from their past as they yielded their lives to Christ. The weekend was filled with the Holy Spirit and God’s grace.

Through each meeting, decisions were called for, and people responded. Invitations also were given for people to

enroll in Bible Study Offer. Appeals were made to the members to continue studying with their friend once they returned home. Both were accepted joyfully. By the end of the weekend,

- 21 people had accepted Christ for the first time.
- 35 people made decisions to be baptized.
- 52 people decided to begin keeping the Sabbath.
- 28 people enrolled in a Bible study course.

We broke the ice in Lake Shellenberger to baptize a sister who was ready for baptism!

Peppers said he believes this is a model that can be duplicated in every local church. “It doesn’t take much to create an environment where people can be ministered to and open their hearts to truth,” he said, offering that they plan to do more of these weekends. ■

Wes Peppers, Michigan Conference, associate Ministerial director | Evangelism coordinator, with Lake Union Herald staff



## Quinoa and Roasted Squash with Peppers Recipe

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 through October 15, AdventHealth shares this Latin American-inspired quinoa recipe that is plant-based, cholesterol- and gluten-free, and low in carbs.

The ancient grain called quinoa has a history that stretches back 3,000 years to South America, yet still elicits quizzical looks and odd pronunciations (it's KEEN-wa). This relative of beets and spinach, high in protein and gluten-free, has a nutty, creamy consistency and makes for a great base for slow-roasted vegetables with their own smoky, rich flavors. This dish works as a fine side dish or as a meat-free main course.

### OVERVIEW:

Yield: 10 (½ cup) servings  
Cooking Time: 30 minutes  
Prep Time: 10 minutes  
Total Time: 40 minutes

### INGREDIENTS:

1 c. quinoa, dry  
1 Tbsp. olive oil  
1¾ cups water  
½ c. red bell pepper, chopped  
⅓ c. yellow squash, chopped  
½ c. plum tomato, chopped  
⅓ c. zucchini squash, chopped  
½ tsp. paprika  
½ tsp. kosher salt  
½ c. scallions, cut into ¼-inch bias cut  
¾ tsp. ground black pepper  
¼ c. Italian parsley, chopped  
2 c. butternut squash, chopped  
2 Tbsp. lemon juice  
dash of nutmeg  
non-stick cooking spray

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Follow the prep technique next to each ingredient. Preheat oven to 350°F. In a medium sauce pan with a lid, place water and bring to a boil. Add the quinoa and bring it back to a boil. Cover and lower heat to low. Simmer for 15–20 minutes. Fluff quinoa and set aside.

Meanwhile, season the yellow and zucchini squash with salt and pepper, spray nonstick cooking spray on the vegetables and place on prepared sheet pan. Season the butternut squash with nutmeg and place on prepared sheet pan. Roast vegetables in the oven for approximately 12–15 minutes. The butternut squash may take around 20–25 minutes depending on the oven.

In a skillet, sauté the red peppers, tomatoes and scallions in olive oil until fragrant. Add lemon juice and paprika. Combine cooked quinoa with all the vegetables. Fold in the parsley and serve. ■

### NUTRITIONAL DATA:

calories 98.54; fat 2.47g; sat fat 0.21g; cholesterol 0mg; sodium 145.16mg; carbohydrates 16.94g; fiber 1.90g; sugars 1.70g; protein 3.12g



# SEPTEMBER NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

## ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

**Sept. 11–13:** *Pathfinders: Beyond the Basic, Ottawa (Virtual)*

**Sept. 18–20:** *Adventurer Family Campout, Camp Akita (Virtual)*

**Sept. 26–Oct. 3:** *Hispanic Metropolitan Evangelism*

## INDIANA CONFERENCE

**Sept. 1:** *Town Hall Meeting, Central Churches; 7 p.m.*

**Sept. 2:** *Town Hall Meeting, Indy-Area Churches; 7 p.m.*

**Sept. 3:** *Town Hall Meeting, North Churches Group 1; 7 p.m.*

**Sept. 4–7:** *Hispanic Camp Meeting — Cancelled*

**Sept. 8:** *Town Hall Meeting, South Churches; 7 p.m.*

**Sept. 10:** *Town Hall Meeting, North Churches Group 2; 7 p.m.*

**Sept. 11–13:** *Adventurer Family Fall Weekend (Virtual)*

**Sept. 18–20:** *Pathfinder Camporee (Virtual)*

**Sept. 25–27:** *Brown County Blowout, Timber Ridge Camp*

## LAKE REGION CONFERENCE

**Sept. 12:** *Pastoring during a Pandemic; Livestream on YouTube; 7 p.m. EDT*

**Sept. 15–Oct. 15:** *Hispanic Heritage Month (details TBA)*

**Sept. 25–26:** *Conscience & Justice Council Virtual Convention (details TBA)*

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

**Sept. 3–7:** *UP Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola*

**Sept. 13–17:** *Golden Years Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

**Sept. 18–20:** *Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Au Sable*

**Sept. 25–27:** *Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Au Sable*

**Sept. 27–Oct. 3:** *Emmanuel Institute Training Session, new Michigan Conference Office*

## WISCONSIN CONFERENCE

**Sept. 11–13:** *Pathfinder Camporee, Lena*

**Sept. 16–18:** *Outdoor Education — Cancelled*

**Sept. 18–20:** *Hispanic Couples Retreat — Cancelled*

**Sept. 25–27:** *Women's Ministry Retreat — Cancelled*

## LAKE UNION CONFERENCE

**Oct. 2–3:** *Adventist Medical Professionals Virtual Clinician Well-being Conference and Family Conference*

Register at: [www.amp.lakeunion.org](http://www.amp.lakeunion.org)

For additional information, email: [heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org](mailto:heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org)



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**Welcome to the *Lake Union Herald* Readership Survey!**

This is your opportunity to share your opinions and suggestions so the *Herald* magazine can best serve your interests. Your responses will help us gain a clearer understanding of what you expect to see in these pages and assist us in producing a magazine that is a better reflection of interests and concerns to our readers.

**How often do you typically read an issue?**

Every  Most  Occasionally  Never

**How much of each magazine do you read?**

All  Most  Some  None

**How long do you keep an issue?**

>1 mo.  <1 mo.  1 wk.  Discard

**Total minutes reading each issue?**

60+  30-60  10-30  0-10

**If additional content is available online only, how likely are you to go to the website to read it?**

Not  Some  Moderately  Very

**Using either the list below, the Table of Contents (on p. 3) or by flipping through the magazine, please answer the questions that follow:**

**Feature articles** which focus on a particular theme or topic for that issue

**Perspectives** (editorial, Lest We Forget, Conversations with God, Conexiones, One Voice)

**Evangelism** (Sharing Our Hope, Telling God's Stories, Partnership with God, On the Edge)

**Lifestyle** (Family Focus, Alive & Well)

**Current Matters** (AdventHealth, Andrews University, other News stories, Calendar of Events, Mileposts, Classifieds)

**What type of articles would you like more of?**

**What article(s) do you *Always* read?**

**What article(s) do you *Never* read?**

**In general, the articles should be (*check one*):**

Shorter  Longer  Remain Same

**On a scale of 1-10, how valuable is the content to you?**

**In your opinion, how can we improve that value?**

**What article topic would you consider to be the most memorable in the last year?**

**What do you like the most about the magazine?**

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Yes  No

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**Name**

**Please rate the quality of the current *Herald* magazine on the following:**

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion
Content						
Cover						
Readability						
Design						
Photography						
Writing						

**Of what conference are you a member?**

Ind.  Ill.  Mich.  Lake Region  
 Wis.  None  Other

**What is your age?**  under 25

25-34  35-49  50-64  65+

**What is your gender?**  Male  Female

**Please mail completed survey by September 30, 2020, to: *Lake Union Herald*, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103**

**Or, go online to fill out the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTYXSRJ>.**

Or, scan this QR code.



Watch for survey results in the first quarter of 2021. Thank you for your time and support in completing this survey.

**Readers** – Return your survey **TODAY** to be included in a drawing for a \$50 gift card at Amazon.

Within the Lake Union, the officiating pastor or church communication leader is responsible for submission of information to this column. Forms are available in print format, or they can be filled out and submitted directly online. Milepost forms are available at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

**OBITUARIES**

**BULLOCK, Brenton Lee**, age 88; born Nov. 27, 1931, in Fair Play, Mo.; died April 23, 2020, in Savannah, Tenn. Previously a long-time member of the Michigan Conference, he was most recently a member of the Savannah Church, Savannah. Survivors include his wife, Neva "Joyce" (Seamens); sons, Brenton Lee Jr., and Richard Lynn "Dick"; daughter, Cynthia Bullock Santos; foster child, Brenda Harvey; sister, Betty Ables; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. Memorial services are scheduled for Oct. 24 at 3:00 p.m. at the Savannah Church, Savannah; private inurnment.

**KANIPE, Juanita (Tyree)**, age 96; born Jan. 23, 1924, in Elizabethtown, Ill.; died May 14, 2020, in Columbia, Mo. She was a member of the

Metropolis Church in Metropolis, Ill. Survivors include brother, Bill Tyree; sisters, Cora "Dodie" Day, and Leafy Hazel; seven grandchildren; and one step-grandchild. Private inurnment.

**LaCOUNT, Ruth N. (Schroeder)**, age 95; born Oct. 13, 1924, in Corunna, Mich; died July 13, 2020, in Bark River, Mich. She was a member of the Wilson Church in Wilson, Mich. Survivors include her daughter, Suzanne (Lee) LaCount Hayford; and brothers, Jake (Arlene) Schroeder, and Keith (Beverly) Schroeder. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Tom Hubbard; interment was in the Wilson Church Cemetery in Wilson.

**MURPHY, Kathy A. (Ethridge)**, age 76; born Dec. 6, 1943, in Harvey, Ill.; died June 24, 2020,

in Paducah, Ken. She was a member of the Metropolis Church in Metropolis, Ill. Survivors include Michael Murphy, Paul Hobbs, and John Hobbs; daughter, Kendril Gray; sisters, Patti Ethridge, and Debra Sainz; several grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren. Private inurnment.

**SNOW, Harold P.**, age 76; born July 14, 1943, in Marshfield, Wis.; died May 10, 2020, in Auburn, Wash. He was a member of the Bethel Church in Arpin, Wis. Survivors include his wife, Darlene "Joy" (Slyater); sons, Philip, Thomas, and Mark; daughter, Jolene; sister, Patsy (Snow) Hurt; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Ken Parker; private inurnment.

**CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS**

- Sept. 5** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 12** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 19** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 26** Local Conference Advance

**THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING**

- Sept. 26** West-Central African Division

**CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS**

**FOCUS FOR THE MONTH**

**— HEALTH**

- Sept. 1-30** Hispanic Heritage Month
- Sept. 5** Men's Day of Prayer
- Sept. 6-11** Youth Week of Prayer
- Sept. 6-12** Nurture Periodicals (*Adventist Review, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend*)
- Sept. 6-12** Family Togetherness Week
- Sept. 12** Super Youth Day Sabbath
- Sept. 12** Family Togetherness Sabbath
- Sept. 19** Made to Move Day
- Sept. 20-26** Made to Move Week
- Sept. 26** Deaf Ministries Awareness Sabbath

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO PRESENTS

# UNLOCKING BIBLE PROPHECIES

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This powerful series recently took social media by storm when it aired in June and quickly received more than 1 million views. Whether you've never before cracked open a Bible, or have been studying it all your life, you'll gain new insights from this free master class.

[awr.org/bible](http://awr.org/bible)



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## DANIEL 11 CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 22-24



[DANIEL11PROPHECY.COM](http://DANIEL11PROPHECY.COM)

Village Seventh-Day Adventist Church | Berrien Springs, MI



Churches, schools, conferences, institutions and organizations may submit announcements to the *Lake Union Herald* through their local conference communication directors. An easy way to do this is to visit the *Lake Union Herald* website at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org> and submit the announcement online. Readers may verify dates and times of programs with the respective sources, as these events are subject to change. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, OCT. 2-3**, at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11, '16. For more information, call 701-751-6177 ext. 212 or visit [www.dakotaadventistacademy.org](http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org).

**GREAT LAKES ADVENTIST ACADEMY IS SAD TO ANNOUNCE THE CANCELLATION OF ITS IN-PERSON ALUMNI WEEKEND BUT WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ITS ALUMNI TO JOIN THEM FOR A VIRTUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND WHICH WILL BE HELD ON OCT. 9-10.** All alumni from Adelpian Academy, Cedar Lake Academy, Grand Ledge Academy and Great Lakes Adventist Academy are invited to join them for this two-day virtual event. Honor classes are 1960, '70, '80, '90, '95, 2000, '10. If you would like more information, please go to <https://glaa.net/alumni-weekend/> or call 989-427-4444.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** — Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the counties of Wisconsin Dells, the format of the Wisconsin Conference Women's Ministry retreat has changed. Women can register online for a discounted price of \$60 and the presentations will be mailed, along with a thank you gift.

All classified ads must be sent to your local conference for approval. No phoned ads will be accepted. Allow at least eight weeks for publication. Fifty words maximum. No limit of insertions. Rates: \$36 per insertion for Lake Union church members; \$46 per insertion for all others. A form is available at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org> for printing out and filling in your ad. Ads must be prepaid. Make money order or check payable to the Lake Union Conference. There will be no refunds for cancellations. The *Lake Union Herald* cannot be responsible for advertisements appearing in its columns, and reserves the right to edit ads in accordance with editorial policies. The *Lake Union Herald* does not accept responsibility for typographical errors. Submission eligibility guidelines are listed at <http://www.lakeunionherald.org>.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**STALLANT HEALTH, A RURAL HEALTH CLINIC IN WEIMAR, CALIF.**

— Is accepting applications for an Optometrist to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: [marva@stallanthhealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthhealth.com).

**HEAD RANGER NEEDED AT TIMBER RIDGE CAMP**

— Timber Ridge Camp is taking applications for a new Head Ranger. Send résumés to [pastorcharliet@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcharliet@gmail.com).

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Sept. 4	Sept. 11	Sept. 18	Sept. 25
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:12	8:00	7:47	7:35
Chicago, Ill.	7:17	7:05	6:53	6:41
Detroit, Mich.	7:59	7:47	7:36	7:22
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:09	7:58	7:46	7:35
La Crosse, Wis.	7:33	7:20	7:07	6:54
Lansing, Mich.	8:05	7:53	7:41	7:28
Madison, Wis.	7:25	7:12	7:00	6:47
Springfield, Ill.	7:23	7:12	7:00	6:49

# This Feels Impossible

By Vicki Thompson

**THE MONTHS OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ALWAYS REMIND ME OF PREPARING FOR GOING BACK TO SCHOOL.** This year, as students and parents get ready for the new school year, there is a heightened sense of excitement due to the abrupt end of the school year during the spring semester.

Years ago, when I was a young parent of school-aged children, the looming thought of registration day always caused significant financial stress. As parents, we were determined our children would have a Christian education. We were of simple means so the thought of having the registration fee and one-month tuition in advance, not to mention the back-to-school clothes and supplies, would leave us unsure of how we could financially accomplish it all. It felt impossible. To this day, I cannot tell you exactly where the necessary funds came from year after year.

It was a blend of carefully reviewing our finances, sacrificing the desire for certain needs and the latest accessories; the most important tool was a lot of prayer and faith. Somehow each year we survived, and our daughters thrived. They received an Adventist education that prepared them for their futures with a Christ-centered foundation.

If you find yourself in a similar circumstance, I encourage you to be willing to work to have the faith that God will provide for all your needs. Surrender all you have to His glory and His purpose. Philippians 4:19 reads, *And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

After my daughters completed their K-12 school years, I had the privilege of serving at Andrews University as associate director of Student Financial Services for 11 years. In that role, I was able to bring into play for many incoming college students and their parents the same principles I had previously learned and used. Each year the students and parents may change but the one constant was a sincere desire to receive an Adventist education. Many of them were under stress as they didn't know how they were going to accomplish their goal with limited finances. I would

guide them through the maze of financial aid. My desire was to be a calming tour guide to assist them and provide them with the financial tools they would need to complete their degree. I would always encourage students to work at summer camp or in publishing ministry as this would provide them a matching scholarship. Amazingly, it would be just the amount needed to bridge the financial gap.

If I am being truthful, there were some cases that I didn't know how we could achieve the needed funds. But, with a blend of faith and determination, God would bring all the necessary funds together at just the right time. In the past few weeks, I have been blessed to encounter a few of the students I had accompanied on their financial journey. Each one recalled how there were times during that process they did not know how they were going to be able to overcome the financial obstacles. Today, they have all become successful professionals, receiving a degree they didn't think was possible. It reminds me again, *But with God all things are possible!* ■

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*Vicki Thompson is assistant treasurer and assistant HR director for the Lake Union Conference.*



And my God shall supply all  
your needs according to His  
riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

# Interrupted by Pain

By Maggie Wilcox



Ruth Burr

▲ Maggie Wilcox

**ON JULY 2, 2019, I WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE II HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA**, a blood cancer originating in the lymph nodes. I was 20 years old. After preliminary exams, scans and a port placement, I began nearly four months of chemotherapy on July 26 — eight treatments, two weeks apart, all of it ending on November 1. I have been in remission since then.

Cancer was hell. I was bald and felt horrible. I began to see suffering in every corner of the world. Because my life was threatened, I became aware of suffering far greater than my own in the lives of other cancer-fighters. The vast possibilities of future suffering shook me deeply. Life was nothing like I wanted it to be.

During treatment, I continued pursuing my Violin Performance degree at Andrews University with the

support of friends and faculty. I studied, practiced and struggled to wrap my mind around the existence of suffering. What sort of world was it where babies die of cancer, mothers grieve, young people are torn from a life of purpose and happiness? What sort of world was it that allowed evil to destroy joy?

I suppose all humans, sooner or later, are forced to face the reality of the world we live in. Some lucky ones are shielded from suffering during their childhoods; other children already have seen more pain than many adults will ever face. Incredible beauty and joy is too often interrupted by pain. All of us eventually ask, “Why?”

C.S. Lewis writes in his book, *The Problem of Pain*, that, “Pain is unmasked, unmistakable evil; every man knows that something is wrong when he is being hurt.” You do not have to look far in the world today to see that something is very wrong. Once you see it and experience it, you get to choose what you will believe about it.

Christians believe that good and beautiful things, great or small, come from God. They believe that evil, brokenness and destruction come from Satan. In fact, they believe that the root cause of every “not-right” thing is sin. Sin is the disease that causes pain and suffering, hate and evil. It is why I am broken and why you are broken. It is why people kill people and why others die of cancer. It is why the vast majority of circumstances and realities seem so completely contrary to the love and joy we all long for. The presence of pain awakens us to a choice between good and evil.

Jesus Christ, in His death and resurrection, has made possible the eradication of sin and suffering. His is the only solution, and He has become my hope. I’ve seen these facts in the world: there is joy, there is suffering, there is a Man who told us the reason for it all and who has offered us Himself. Ours is the choice to believe. ■

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Maggie Wilcox, junior Music Performance major, Andrews University



## Outside the Comfort Zone

By Hannah Gallant



Courtesy Andrews University CASI

▲ Sam Fisher

keep his elderly grandparents safe during this time, Sam moved out of his home and into a hotel.

“COVID-19 has caused a lot of stress but also has made me understand how important nurses are, especially during a pandemic,” he explains.

Sam began each day in the COVID unit by putting on all the adequate protection: an N-95 face mask, a face shield and a suit to cover his whole body. Most of the people he worked with in the unit were either in critical condition or bedbound. Sam’s job was to provide assistance with personal hygiene, take vital signs to measure for signs of improvement or worsening symptoms, and give assistance with feeding and setting up meal trays.

“I have seen God working in my life by allowing me to work somewhere like this even though it exposes me to very traumatic and stressful situations that are outside of my comfort zone,” Sam explains. “I have seen God working in the lives of those I help by bringing them healing and encouragement through their caretakers.”

Sam views his work as a ministry because he realizes that he and the other caretakers are among the very few people with whom COVID patients have personal contact. “I feel called to this because not many people are willing to work in a hazardous environment,” he says. “We are in direct contact with people infected so we have to have a powerful reason to be willing to work here. I hope to impact those I work with through doing the best job possible to assist those affected.” ■

Hannah Gallant, contract writer, University Communication, Andrews University

“The reason I chose to pursue a career in nursing is because I love making people happy, and I think the best way to do that is to be a nurse,” says Sam Fisher, a sophomore Nursing student at Andrews University.

During the summer months, Sam has worked as a full-time nursing assistant. His primary job typically involved helping the nurses with various tasks in a long-term care unit for patients with dementia.

This past summer, however, Sam had a very different routine — he worked as a nursing assistant in the COVID unit for Spectrum Health Lakeland. In order to

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