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HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2021



ANDREWS UNIVERSITY
WORLD CHANGERS MADE HERE.



For a month this summer, four mornings a week, seminary student Nashonie Chang and I conducted a prayer walk around the Andrews University campus. Our prayer concerns included students who are stretched emotionally and financially, and administrators needing to demonstrate confident leadership after a year of brow-furrowing disruption and chaos. As we walked and prayed the 1.5-mile perimeter, vibrant with colorful blooms, we also thanked God for gifts He bestowed on this campus with a worldwide reach and influence.

I keep in touch with Andrews University students I was humbled to have encountered during my seven years of teaching there and remain inspired by their deep commitment to following His call, whether it was to the C-suite of Fortune 100 companies or classrooms in the remote Pacific islands. They truly helped fortify my faith and belief in God's Word.

Will you join me in a prayer for this new school year, that He who has begun a good work in the formation of this campus community — its university, academy and elementary school — will continue to see it through the completion of its mission of restoring God's image in His children? ■

Debbie

Debbie Michel
Director of Communication

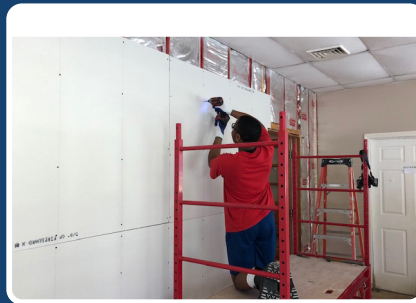


ONLINE NEWS

A generous donor gave \$100,000 to Hinsdale Adventist Academy (HAA), which was matched by the Illinois Conference, HAA Home and School Association, Class of 2020, and others. Holding the check in the amount of \$200,000 is departing principal Fawn Scherencel who leaves HAA completely debt-free.



The North American Division Mizo Adventist Youth Federation Convention was held in Indianapolis at the Indiana Mizo Church, June 26–27. Pastor L. Chawngthu baptized five youth who had completed baptismal classes. The theme of their convention was "Krista Kan Felna" ("Christ Our Righteousness").



A group of seven volunteers from Laurelbrook Academy in Dayton, Tenn., drove up to Columbus, Ind., to help with the remodeling and reconstruction needed to reopen Maple Creek Academy in Indiana. The school opened in August.



It Is Written director and speaker, Pastor John Bradshaw, joined the members of the Grand Rapids Central Church for the opening of the new location, July 16–17. Pastor Bradshaw made four presentations inspiring listeners that the time until Jesus returns is short, and we have family, friends and neighbors who are longing to know of the love of our Savior for them.



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CONTENTS

TELLING THE STORIES OF WHAT GOD IS DOING IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE

PERSPECTIVES

Guest Editorial	4
Lest We Forget	8
Conexiones	9
Conversations with God	40
One Voice	42
On The Edge	43

EVANGELISM

Sharing Our Hope	10
Telling God's Stories	12
Partnership With God	41

LIFESTYLE

Family Focus	6
Alive & Well	7

CURRENT MATTERS

AdventHealth	26
Andrews University	27
News	28
Mileposts	36
Announcements	38
Calendar of Events	38
Classifieds	39

FEATURES

14

A Passion for Service

By Moriah McDonald

20

By Grace and Faith

By Isabella Koh

COVER PHOTO: DARREN HESLOP

ON THE COVER: Nehemiah Sitler on the campus of Andrews University

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What Truly Matters

I am excited for the future! I cannot wait for a return to parts of my work that I love: seeing each other smile other than on a computer screen, gathering together in worship, and times of warm collegiality, especially over some amazing food prepared at the Andrews University Dining Services!



▲ Andrea Luxton

But that excitement is also because there is a lot in the last year that will remain and make us stronger, and that includes the critical need to know what is important — to know what our priorities are and to focus on them.

This excitement is in contrast to what I have found increasingly disappointing over the last year of shutdowns, maybe emphasized because of the longer times we have spent online and with social media. That disappointment is over the culture of minimizing the views of others along with rhetoric that assumes the speaker's reality is right, irrespective of evidence. And most disappointing is this challenge does not just seem to impact the wider society; it moves into the church also.

There is no better way for the church to be disrupted from its mission than for us to spend time arguing over issues which are not related to our salvation and/or, worse still, disparaging the actions of others because we might not agree with something they do. So sometimes the “us” and “them” start breaking into smaller and

smaller groups until “them” can be anyone who isn't in alignment with our social and theological perspectives, even if their perspective is in full alignment with the church's fundamental beliefs. I am not sure any one ideological group is innocent in this disruption of mission. I wonder if Jesus' response to His disciples' concern over those who were not part of them is appropriate for us: *for whoever is not against us is for us* (Mark 9:40). How much more energy we would have if we spent focusing on what mission we could achieve together rather than worrying about what someone else might be doing wrong.

I am sure some readers are already disagreeing with or making exceptions to what I am saying. And I agree, it is a generalized statement — but I stand by the general concern I raise. Put in practical terms: let's not believe what is negative without listening and seeking to understand. Let's not damage the reputation of another by repeating gossip. Believe the best of others, not the worst. We need each other's support and prayers. Our

WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE DRIVEN BY THE PRIORITY THAT WE ARE ALL CALLED TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON THIS EARTH AS WELL AS DRAWING OTHERS TOWARD THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE FUTURE.



response to this unfortunate tendency to fight amongst ourselves and denigrate each other as “not Adventist enough” or “too rigid” is to be increasingly more articulate and engaged with our mission and to do so in a reasoned, prayerful and faithful manner.

Andrews University’s mission statement, and particularly its summary — “Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith, Change the World” — is very much about what I am saying. Let’s make sure we do as God says and reason together, even wrestle with the complexity of different challenges and different perspectives together. Let’s do it in a way that is prayerful and faithful. And once we have done that, with the power of biblical-driven knowledge and understanding, let’s bring positive change to the world. That is what it is saying.

So I go back to my first paragraph. I am excited for fall 2021 and beyond. But that excitement is also because I think there is a lot in the last year that will remain and make us stronger, and that includes the critical need to know what is important — to know what our priorities are and to focus on them.

I want to share just a few examples of what I mean.

First of all, nothing is more important than our students. It has been encouraging this year to be reminded of the quality of those students, for they have shown amazing resilience and commitment during this

difficult time. It has not stopped them from leading, serving and ministering to each other and beyond. And our employees have gone way past the second mile in providing the extra support that has been needed to keep everyone safe and emotionally well during this year. The value and dignity — to God and to us — of each individual in our community will continue to drive our priorities.

Second, what is important is learning and connecting in a community of faith. Our team of chaplains has done an outstanding job this last year of reaching out to our students through the Center for Faith Engagement to connect in a myriad of creative and traditional ways. We have had a series of podcasts on Made to Thrive, talking about all aspects of wellness with experts in their fields: physical wellness, spiritual wellness, emotional wellness, and so on. Our faculty have consistently found new ways of using their knowledge and skills to help students understand the connection between their disciplines and an active life of faith. Our responsibility to continuously seek creative and relevant ways to talk about mission to the current generation will continue to drive our priorities.

Third, what is important is remembering that nothing should get in the way of our mission to reach out and serve others. Throughout the pandemic, that

commitment to serve has never been stronger. Our International Center for Trauma Education & Care, operated out of the School of Social Work, has offered its services nationally and internationally. We have continued through the Center for Faith Engagement to engage students in a range of local service projects at a time such service was sorely needed. We have offered leadership seminars remotely through the world in areas critical to leadership development in the church and beyond. We will continue to be driven by the priority that we are all called to make a positive difference to the Kingdom of God on this earth as well as drawing others toward the heavenly Kingdom of God in the future.

I hope that as you see and read about a few of the ways the Andrews University community has tried to focus on what is important this year that you will feel encouraged.

We plan to continue to engage together in a unified mission to share with each other the love of God and the unparalleled message of the salvation story within the framework of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. That gets me excited! We have found new tools to use in the last year, and we have the passion to make a difference. Please join us. ■

Andrea Luxton, president, Andrews University

The Key to Healthy Communication

Emotions cloud communication. This does not mean we should not feel our emotions, or that we should not talk about our emotions. What this means is we often lose track of the original thought when emotions come rushing into the conversation. Let me give you an example of what I mean.



▲ Brad Hinman

As a professor at Andrews University and a therapist who owns a group counseling practice, communication is what I do. I spend a lot of time teaching people about healthy communication. If my wife comes home and my gym bag is in the middle of the living room, she may have a thought something along the lines of “That does not belong there. It’s in the way. I wish he wouldn’t keep putting it there.” That’s a perfectly acceptable thought to have, especially if she has told me before not to leave my gym bag there. The problem is, though, the process does not stop there. Emotions come rushing into her brain. Emotions like frustration, anger, hurt (if she has told me before, then she may feel like I am ignoring her on purpose), irritation and maybe humiliation (if someone were to come over and see my stinky bag).

Given the thought above, and now the addition of five or six emotions to the mix, she now begins a process that I call, “having a conversation in her head.” She thinks things like, “I have told him I don’t like it when he does that. Why does he keep doing that? He must not care about me. He must not love me because if he did he wouldn’t do things to hurt me on purpose.” Notice how she has moved from one thought (or conversation) to another, all in her head, and all without my explanation or input.

Now comes the problem. What she then speaks to me is something along the lines of “You are such a slob! You are so selfish! You only think about yourself! I am not your slave!” This is a response to the conversation she has had in her head and the original thought of “That does not belong there. It’s in the way. I wish he wouldn’t keep putting it there” is gone. When I hear what she just said to me, it’s going to sound aggressive, like an attack, and I will get defensive. I will think something along the lines of “She thinks I am worthless; she is going to leave me; I will lose everything,” and I counter with an attack of my own.

Notice, now we will be even further from her original curious thought of “Why is the bag in the living room? It does not belong there.” Had she shared the original thought without emotion, and without the added conversation she had in her head, our conversation would have proceeded differently and likely would have had a much more positive tone. ■



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

Dr. Brad Hinman, LPC, LMFT, AASECT Certified Sex Therapist; director, Hinman Counseling Services; assistant professor, Andrews University.

Fitting In

Belonging is a fundamental human need, according to God's design. Humans are created to be social beings, and family is one of the first ways in which we experience belonging and learn to value it.

Going to college can be a very scary transition, in part because we wonder if we will fit in and be accepted. However, God is always with us and can show us we belong in the smallest of ways, if we are open to His leading. For me, I came to Andrews University as a potential faculty member, but I was ready to run away at the first sign that I didn't belong. I am a Hispanic woman who studies violence against women among religious groups, and I had experienced enough to know that my work was not always welcomed with open arms. But I had to trust that if God wanted me here, He would make sure I knew. Somehow, He would let me know whether I would be accepted and if I could belong.

When I was invited for an interview, we had just unexpectedly lost our cousin and two close church members within the past week. I had a funny feeling about everything and was very edgy. At the time, my department was all male faculty members, and I wondered about whether I would "fit in." I had very different training than most of them, and did not know if they would be supportive of the work I did. I asked God for a sign. "Just one," I told Him. Honestly though, I was asking for a sign to leave, not one that would make me consider an offer to work here.

As we were walking to lunch, I heard a piece of a conversation about how women's IQ is, on average, lower than men's, which is why women aren't as qualified. "Aha!" I thought, "that's my sign. I'll eat lunch with these people, then run away and never come back!" God must have smiled. Someone else then said, "Yes. And on average, IQs for Asian Americans are higher than

any other ethnic group, so we should only hire male Asian Americans." That's when I figured out they were talking about how people misinterpret statistics, and how dangerous it can be to draw conclusions when you don't know the context. These men were looking to change misconceptions. Maybe this was another kind of sign. Was God really trying to tell me I could belong at Andrews?

It's been 11 years, and I am still here, so I think I read the "signs" correctly. I found my work family, my people with whom I "belong." When deciding where to study or work, it's important to feel like you belong, or you won't enjoy it and your health will suffer. However, don't judge a book by its cover. At first glance, AU did not seem like a place where I could belong. I did not see eye-to-eye with some people, and I still don't. But God has opened doors for my work to continue and grow, raising awareness of violence against women and families, and creating projects to effect change in our religious community.

When you think about where God is leading you, look for the signs, be careful of rushing to judgment, and be open to God's directions. May you be blessed and be a blessing wherever you go. May you feel like you belong, so you can grow and thrive and, in your own way, work to change this world. ■

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.



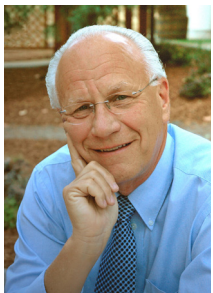
▲ Melissa Ponce-Rodas



The “Advertising” of Adventist Education: The Avondale Experiment — 3

All shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Heb. 8:11, RSV



▲ George R. Knight

Part of the new covenant experience reflected upon in Hebrews 8 is educational. Central to the new covenant is knowing God and His will. With that in mind, it is no accident that the post-Minneapolis revolution which had begun to transform Adventist thinking on the place of Christ and the Bible in Adventism would also mistily shape the denomination’s educational philosophy.

It was in the light of the Avondale experiment that Ellen White wrote that “human productions have been used as most essential” in prior Adventist education “and the Word of God has been studied simply to give flavor to other studies” (FE 395).

That model, she asserted, must come to an end. “The Bible should not be brought into our schools to be sandwiched in between infidelity. The Bible must be

made the groundwork and subject matter of education. . . It should be used as the Word of the living God, and esteemed as first, and last, and best in everything. Then will be seen true spiritual growth. The students will develop healthy religious characters because they eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God. But unless watched and nurtured, the health of the soul decays. Keep in the channel of light. Study the Bible” (FE 474).

Again, “higher education is an experimental [i.e., experiential] knowledge of the plan of salvation, and this knowledge is secured by earnest and diligent study of the Scriptures. Such an education will renew the mind and transform the character, restoring the image of God in the soul. It will fortify the mind against . . . the adversary and enable us to understand the voice of God. It will teach the learner to become a coworker with Jesus Christ. . . . It is the simplicity of the true godliness — our passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher school above.

“There is no education to be gained higher than that given to the early disciples, and which is revealed to us through the Word of God. To gain the higher education means to follow this word implicitly: it means to walk in the footsteps of Christ, to proclaim His virtues. It means to give up selfishness and to devote the life to the service of God” (CT 11). ■

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, p. 306. Reprinted with permission.



Primer Congreso Virtual de la Mujer

La Escuela de Salud Pública de Harvard presentó en el 2012 los resultados de una encuesta realizada a mujeres en Estados Unidos, durante 16 años (1996-2012), estos resultados evidencian que las mujeres cristianas que asisten a su iglesia con regularidad o se congregan para adorar y alabar, viven más años que aquellas que no concurren a sus reuniones o cultos.

Sin duda, la salud espiritual está muy relacionada a la salud emocional y física. Una mujer que busca la conexión con su Creador recibe vida abundante.

El Ministerio de la Mujer Hispana, la Unión del Lago y el Ministerio Multicultural, presentan su Primer Congreso Virtual: “*Abro mi Corazón al Poder Transformador de Dios.*” Un evento sin precedentes para honrar al dador de la vida. Sábado 2 de octubre del 2021. Horario: 9:30 a.m. y 2:30 p.m. hora Centro. Cinco conferencias Adventistas unidas: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Lake Region y Wisconsin.

Una programación de excelencia para jóvenes y damas. Cada grupo tendrá la participación de mujeres de Dios y profesionales con vasta experiencia para presentarnos palabra de transformación.

Invitadas para jóvenes: Pr. Rabbe García (pastora de jóvenes en California), Dra. Yarizel Rodríguez (Psicóloga), Dra. Alejandra Antón (Médico Cirujano).

Invitadas para damas: Dra. Elizabeth Talbot (Teóloga-Jesus 101 TV), Dra. Yaqueline Tello (Psicóloga), Lcda. Belkis Archbold (Especialista en Salud).

Queremos que seas parte de este evento. El evento es GRATIS y privado. Sin embargo, requiere registración. Invita a todas las damas de tu comunidad eclesíástica y de tu entorno. Sé parte de esta inolvidable experiencia. Construyamos a través del Espíritu Santo una santificación que nos conduzca a la eternidad. Que

nuestra vida de forma integral, espíritu, emociones y salud física estén dedicadas por entero a nuestro Redentor.

Unidas a las palabras del Apóstol Pedro: “Qué tu belleza sea más bien la incorruptible, la que procede de lo íntimo del corazón y consiste en un espíritu suave y apacible. Este es de mucho valor delante de Dios” (1 Pedro 3:4).

Conéctate a la página web de nuestra Unión del Lago (www.lakeunion.org), bajo Ministerio Multicultural encontrará el enlace de registración, o contacta a la directora de Ministerio de la Mujer de tu conferencia y sé parte de este evento. Abre tu Corazón al Poder Transformador de Dios. ■

Leny Velez es Coordinadora del Congreso de la Mujer de la Unión del Lago.



▲ Leny Velez



A Message of Healing and Hope

FROM THE COMMUNITIES NEAR ANDREWS UNIVERSITY TO THE FAR REACHES OF THE GLOBE, THERE ARE COUNTLESS PEOPLE LIVING WITH THE WEIGHT OF PAST AND PRESENT TRAUMA IN THEIR LIVES. The

International Center for Trauma Education & Care aims to bring understanding, healing and hope to those suffering in silence.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, there has been an increased need for creating more resilient individuals and communities as well as trauma-aware churches, groups and organizations. Our Center's team — made up of faculty from the School of Social Work, the Department of Teaching, Learning & Curriculum and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, along with undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students — wanted to help.

While travel restrictions forced us to connect virtually rather than in person, we were surprised with more and more opportunities to share introductory information about the impact of trauma. God opened doors in our local community, across the U.S. and internationally. In 12 months, we were able to reach approximately 5,000 people directly in addition to an unknown number of individuals who accessed recorded programs.

"This information has changed my life," said one participant in a training from a church community in Boston, Massachusetts. "I wish I had known this information years ago," said another from a North American Division Children's Ministries training. "This is the most important information I've heard to shape my ministry," added a pastor who attended a symposium in partnership with the Seminary.

Requests also came for more focused trainings on racial trauma, sexual assault, foster and adoptive

families and their networks, and the connection between trauma and addictions. One of these programs was presented to the Mission Addiction organization in Dayton, Ohio.

Because the team discusses that, in the midst of pain, there is always hope and healing, church leaders have found the programs to be a powerful form of evangelism as well, and have seen attendance by the community-at-large to online platforms. Within the North American Division, the Center has been privileged to partner with Health Ministries, nurses, the Education Department and various Unions to support a better understanding of the brain and the healing that God provides with support and intervention.

International and global opportunities have carried our team through Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and the Caribbean, covering topics from trauma and God's plan for restoration to practical tips for families and individuals to improve mental health, community healing, and self-care during a time where the world shares the impact and effects of isolation.

The team was even able to create a soon-to-be published devotional series as an outreach tool.

The message of healing and hope continues to guide the International Center for Trauma Education & Care and provide the resources necessary for better support and care. Through the hardships and experiences of the past year, the needs of our individuals, communities and churches are more evident than ever. We look forward to continuing to support our local, domestic and global communities through God's powerful tools of restoration. ■

Laia Burgos, clinical MSW intern at Andrews University

▼ A team from the International Center for Trauma Education & Care meets online.



In My Life . . .

GOD STILL HAS A PLAN

By Stephen William Farr

I GREW UP LISTENING TO MY FATHER PREACH SERMONS AND LEAD WORSHIP WITH HIS GUITAR. I remember saying to myself, “*One day I am going to grow up to be just like you, Dad.*” As a boy I dreamed I would one day be a world evangelist.

When I was 10 years old, everything started changing. I can remember going to bed at night and listening to my parents fight. I spent many nights praying with tears running down my cheeks, “Lord, please don’t allow my family to fall apart.”

When I was 12 years old, my parents told my siblings and me that they were getting a divorce. My heart was broken. Over the years, I watched as my family continued to be torn apart by the enemy. My life began to go on a downward spiral and, when I was 19 years old, I attempted suicide.

I will never forget the day when the Lord reminded me of the calling He placed in my heart when I was only a boy. I was homeless on the streets, sleeping in a bus stop. I didn’t think I had anything to offer God, but nonetheless He spoke to my heart through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called out to me, “Stephen, put your feet on the ground and get up. I want you to go and help other people who are worse off than you are.” To me this sounded an awful lot like the words Jesus said to the men He called to be His disciples. *Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”* (Matt. 4:19).

I was running from the calling God had placed on my life because I didn’t want to be in heaven unless my family was going to be there. The Lord impressed me that if I would give my life to Him, He would turn it into a living testimony. As my mother, father,



Courtesy Stephen Farr

▲ Stephen Farr graduated from Andrews University in May 2021.

brothers and sister witnessed God working in my life, they, too, would one day give their hearts to Jesus.

Another reason I was running from God’s calling on my life is that I felt I had nothing to offer God. Satan convinced me that I had wasted too many years of my life and committed way too many sins for God to use me. I remember telling the Lord, “I have nothing to offer you. I am weak and worthless, but you can have me if you want me.” The Lord replied to me, *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness* (2 Cor. 12:9a).

In 2005, I was baptized, and I recommitted my life to the calling God placed on me when I was a boy. Over the last 16 years, God took me from homeless in a bus stop without a penny in my pocket to where I am now. In 2016, I graduated from Walla Walla University and received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Theology. I was then hired by the Upper Columbia Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After a two-year internship at the Pasco Riverview Adventist Church, I was sponsored to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and, on May 9, 2021, graduated from Andrews University with a Master of Divinity. I then received a call to be the district pastor for the Pendleton and Pilot Rock Adventist churches in Oregon.

I thank God for making my life one of His stories. ■

GOD STILL WORKS MIRACLES

By Monica Desir

With tears in my voice, I called the English Department at Andrews University to say that I could not come to do my master's in English because I had no money.

I had worked hard at trying to sell Christian literature but, with no car and in a strange country with long winters, it was not the same as when I canvassed to pay for my undergraduate education at University of the Southern Caribbean. In New York, I made little more than bus fare. I had prayed and fasted multiple times for God to provide, but nothing seemed to work. What's more, my visa was about to expire. A letter from immigration said to either return to St. Lucia by a given date or show up in court.

"Don't give up hope yet," the professor on the other end of the line encouraged. "We will see what we can do for you."

Since I had been a strong English student and a published author with Pacific Press, the department decided to give me a teaching assistantship. I would teach Freshman Composition for two semesters. On the same day that I should have been returning to St. Lucia, I found myself on the train going to Andrews. "Thank You, Jesus!"

Over the years, I have seen God's continued leading, including in my faith journey to complete doctoral studies at Andrews. More recently, I was faced with a huge challenge for which I really needed God's answer. I decided I would pray and fast for three days and present my case to God. He answered my prayer in no uncertain terms toward the end of the first day. I was elated!

I have a habit of thanking God with a \$25 gift when He answers a big prayer on my behalf. This one was so very important to me that I decided to double it and give Him \$50 instead. Then I said, "No! I will double that!" So I set aside \$100 cash for God — not that He needs my pittance but that is my way of saying "thank You."

Prior to that experience, I would go ahead and give such an offering to some worthy cause I wanted to support, but this time I asked God where He wanted the money to go and prayed about it for two days.

Toward the end of the second day, I walked from my office in the lower level of the Seminary at Andrews where I work to the main floor deans' suite. I was going to ask the assistant about something but, when I got there, she was talking with a young man. I overheard the student's lament: "But I don't *have* that money in my account! I don't *have* that money!"

I quickly disappeared and made my way back to my office without taking note of the student's face. Even today, if I ran into him, I would not recognize him. Shortly after, I picked up the phone and called the assistant.

"Is the student in financial trouble?" I asked.

"Yes," she replied.

"How much does he need?" I continued.

"One hundred dollars," she replied.

I knew this was God's answer to my prayer. I gave the assistant the \$100 to pass on anonymously to the student. The next day I received a thank you card from him via the assistant, since he did not know who I was. He expressed his gratitude to God for using me to answer his prayer.

And I was grateful to God for revealing once again His presence in my life. ■



◀ Monica Desir works as assessment coordinator in the Seminary.



▲ Nehemiah is majoring in Communication with minors in Leadership and Marketing.

Darren Heslop



A PASSION FOR SERVICE

Nehemiah Sitler lived with his family in the Chicago area. He was used to the hustle and bustle of the city and the close proximity to pretty much any type of store or food imaginable. When his dad received a job offer in a relatively rural area of Tennessee, the resulting move was quite an adjustment. Thankfully, Nehemiah found one bright spot: the opportunity to attend Heritage Academy, which offered aviation training.

BY MORIAH MCDONALD



Saul Dominguez

▲ Nehemiah (front row, right) completed training with the other 2019–2020 student missionaries before they left for their respective assignments.

Nehemiah saw this training as a way to pursue a career as a missionary pilot. “The reason I went to Heritage Academy was because they said they could make me a commercial pilot by the time I graduated,” shares Nehemiah. “I felt like it was my calling.”

During Nehemiah’s sophomore year at Heritage, he began flying. When his instructor wasn’t available to fly, Nehemiah used his free time to prepare for the written exam required to earn his pilot’s license. “I got a really good score,” he remembers. “I was proud of myself because I had worked hard on it, and it was a fairly important test.”

The summer after his sophomore year, Nehemiah continued flying as often as possible. “I was taking the final steps before I could actually take the check ride with the inspector and receive my pilot’s license,” he explains.

Then, during his junior year, the unexpected happened. “I was wrestling with my friend on a bottom bunk. We were having a good time. Then I fell off the

bunk. When I opened my eyes, I was extremely disoriented,” says Nehemiah. “I saw the assistant dean, the science teacher and the principal of the school all looking over me. They said I couldn’t move and told me I had to stay still.”

Eventually, an ambulance arrived. Nehemiah found out that in his fall he had broken his left clavicle, sustained a concussion and had had a seizure. He says, “That’s when things started to fall apart. I went to an orthopedist to have my clavicle fixed. But he wouldn’t do surgery until I saw a neurologist so they could determine if my brain was stable enough to endure a surgery.”

The neurologist informed Nehemiah that, by law, he wasn’t allowed to fly for six months. “I was disappointed. I eventually flew with my instructor again during the second semester of my junior year. But, during spring break, I got a call from him — he said I shouldn’t come back to lessons until I had the seizure situation sorted out,” Nehemiah says. “To become a pilot, I had to pass

PASSION

IN THE MIDST OF THESE CHALLENGES, NEHEMIAH EXPERIENCED GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FROM A NUMBER OF PEOPLE.

a medical exam and declare on paper whether or not I'd had a seizure. Typically, the government assumes that you have epilepsy if you've had a seizure. I was disqualified."

Nehemiah was devastated. His family had dedicated so much time and money to the aviation plan, but it would have cost thousands of dollars to fight the disqualification. They concluded they would have to figure out something else.

In the midst of these challenges, Nehemiah experienced guidance and support from a number of people. Both the vice principal and the head boys' dean at Heritage Academy were particularly impactful figures in his life. "The vice principal said that God would help me find something to do with my life that was even better than aviation, and the head boys' dean encouraged me to pursue all of my interests," he says.

With senior year came the pressure to choose a new career path. One of his academy jobs, working as a resident assistant (RA), played an integral role in helping him to arrive at a decision. "I was all over the place, trying to figure out what I wanted to do. But I also was thinking about how I loved being an RA. It was so much fun being able to interact with others. So I decided that I really wanted to be a dean," he notes.

To accomplish his new goal, he decided to major in Communication in college. "I knew I wanted to work with people," he says, "and I felt like Communication was a very open and broad field that would allow me to do that."

Next, Nehemiah began searching for a college to attend. He and his parents visited several Seventh-day

Adventist schools during the spring break of his senior year. Andrews University was the last place they visited. "I remember walking in through the entry of Buller Hall. I saw a friend I knew, and Shelly Erhard, director of Student Visits, greeted me. That's when it clicked. I decided to go to Andrews because of the community. At Andrews, people cared about me," he says.

As Nehemiah started his freshman year at Andrews, he began to create more and more connections — through his classes and professors, his job on campus, and in the residence hall.

He and a group of friends also became interested in traveling to Europe through Student Missions. When they looked into possibilities, however, there weren't many organizations that offered opportunities for a group of students to travel to a destination together. Additionally, the only opportunities available were in Spanish-speaking countries. "Before I knew it, all of my friends had backed out. I had to make a decision, so asked myself, *'Do I really want to be a student missionary or is this just a passing thing?'*" he remembers.

Nehemiah decided to move ahead and pursue a job as a student dean in Europe. "I loved being an RA so much in high school, so I thought this would be a good opportunity to test it out," he says. "But the application process took a while. Before you get accepted, you have to get a reference. While that was happening, I looked for calls that I was interested in."

Nehemiah found a call from England to be an assistant boys' dean. He emailed the school and included his cover letter and résumé, and they sent him an application in response. "I excitedly filled out the application

SERVICE

“TRUST WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOUR LIFE AND TRUST WHERE HE IS LEADING YOU.”

thoroughly and waited, but I never heard back. We were getting to the end of the school year and a lot of people had already gotten calls,” he says. “I was really discouraged and didn’t know what to do.”

Eventually, Nehemiah determined that he would focus on trying to find a position in the United States instead. He went to the student missionary call board and looked up every position available. “I found every single school website, looked for every dean and principal, and wrote down all of the organizations and contact names,” he recalls. “I emailed the boys’ dean and principal of every school with my cover letter and résumé.”

Nehemiah received emails back from Ozark Adventist Academy in Gentry, Arkansas, and Gem State Academy in Caldwell, Idaho. The dean from Ozark Adventist Academy was interested in a phone call. The dean from Gem State Academy shared his number and said they would talk when he returned from a school trip.

At that point, April of Nehemiah’s freshman year had passed. It was May. At the beginning of June, he would begin summer camp and would no longer have access to Student Missions opportunities.

When the dean from Gem State Academy called Nehemiah, they found that they had both grown up in Illinois as kids. Additionally, the dean’s parents had worked with Nehemiah’s dad, who was a pastor. “We connected over that,” Nehemiah recalls. “At this point, I was thinking to myself, *‘This has to be it.’* I wasn’t hearing back from anyone and I was done searching the call board. He called me a few days later and said I could have the job.”

Although Nehemiah was excited to have the job as assistant boys’ dean, it was part-time. He quickly discovered that working part-time meant that he would

have free time. He began trying to volunteer for different programs, but not many opportunities were available. He felt as though he wasn’t connecting with the Academy and became discouraged.

After a couple of weeks had passed, Nehemiah traveled with Academy staff to Camp Ida-Haven, a summer camp in Valley County, Idaho. While there, Nehemiah talked to a staff member who was the recruitment director at Gem State Academy. He became interested in her career and asked if he could help with her work. “She agreed. When we returned to the office, I called all of the elementary schools in the area and scheduled appointments for us to visit and do presentations. We went to a bunch of schools near the Academy and three schools in Oregon,” he remembers. “We had initially decided to do only one or two, but then we decided to do a whole string of schools.”

It was their visit to a high school in Oregon that played a vital role in helping Nehemiah realize that he wanted to work in recruitment. The recruitment director and Nehemiah entered a classroom and began telling the students about Gem State Academy. Then they invited the students to ask questions. “I told them they could go anywhere they wanted and do anything they wanted. It was a really powerful experience to talk to them and see their reactions,” Nehemiah says. “Those kids live in such an isolated part of the country, away from all sorts of amenities. It was amazing to tell them that they had the potential to be something more than they’d imagined.”

With the arrival of COVID-19, Nehemiah’s recruitment trips came to an end. “It was one of those things where I wasn’t able to have closure with it and see it to the end,” he says. “but I was thinking about it a lot during the summer. That experience with the students in

Oregon had been so energizing. I realized that I enjoyed recruitment more than deaning.”

Inspired by his experience in recruiting, Nehemiah decided to pursue both Leadership and Marketing minors in addition to his Communication major when he returned to Andrews. He credits Student Missions for helping him to discover his interest in recruitment. “Student Missions is like a gift that keeps giving,” he explains. “When you come back to Andrews, you’ve discovered new things about yourself and others. The Student Missions club becomes a family. We had all experienced and learned different things but, at the end of the day, we all had that passion for service and saw things that God could use us for. Student Missions shows you how you can be a World Changer.”

Nehemiah wants to use his newfound talents and interests to help others. “I see missions as service and service as ultimately giving of our resources to help other people. That can take a lot of forms — helping someone struggling in class, giving food to a homeless person, giving money to ministries or leading a small group,” he explains.

Nehemiah has pursued jobs on the Andrews University campus that will help him learn more about recruitment and enrollment as well. During the

2020–2021 school year, he worked with the Student Visits team at Marketing & Enrollment Management. Additionally, he works at the ITS help desk. These jobs have taught him to stay calm while working through challenging issues. He also works for Student Activities & Involvement and is helping to develop the AUSA website. He believes that learning how to develop a website will be useful in terms of understanding how marketing works.

From Chicago to Tennessee to Michigan, from pursuing aviation to deaning and finally to recruitment, Nehemiah has learned to trust in God’s plan for his life. “I was upset for a while that I ended up going to Gem State, but I realized it was for the best. It didn’t work out with other mission calls because God had a plan for me to go to Idaho so I could realize that I enjoyed recruitment more than deaning,” he recalls. “By trusting the process, I was able to discover the passion that God has given me for my life. Trust the process, even if you’re not a student missionary. Trust what God has in store for your life and trust where He is leading you.” ■

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



Jackson John

◀ On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, during the evening World Changers Week program, Nehemiah shared about his experience serving as an assistant boys’ dean in Idaho.



Everyone should
have the right
to freedom, life
and safety.

#savemyanmar
#whatishappeninginmyanmar

▲ Nant is pursuing a degree in Biology with a Biomedical concentration and a minor in Chemistry at Andrews University.

Courtesy of Nant Yadanar Precious



BY GRACE AND FAITH

For some, deciding on a life's direction is an ongoing journey. Others know very early on what work their aspirations and passions will lead them to. Nant Yadanar Precious is someone who knew from a young age what she was meant to do: care for others. In fact, she discovered a particular interest in healthcare from experiences with her own childhood ailments, stating, "I enjoy assisting others and making them feel better, especially those who are unwell, because I have experienced illness myself."

BY ISABELLA KOH



Zechariah Li

▲ Nant (fourth from right) participated with Revive in an outreach service in winter 2019.

“I was born and raised in Myanmar,” Nant explains. “In the village where I grew up, there was no power or running water. We didn’t even have a clinic.” As the village was also without a pharmacy of any kind, families in her community often had to face sickness and other difficulties with traditional medicines and faith.

When dengue illness struck her village, Nant faced death, despite being taken to other communities over an hour away from her own. She was told she had less than a 20 percent chance of surviving, but her mother refused to give up and did everything possible to bring her back to health. Nant remembers hearing her mother’s prayers every night and humbly affirms, “I’m here because of God’s grace and my mother’s faith.”

Throughout her childhood years, Nant walked to school roughly two hours each day, faced with a poor and corrupt educational system upon arrival. With an average of 80 individuals per class, she knew that a student had to be close to the teachers or their children in order to receive good grades. She describes, “Going to school under a dictatorship was like chasing an arrow that didn’t know where it was going.” After schooling, most college graduates were unable to find use for their specific degrees and went on to work as waiters and farmers.

When she was just 12 years old, Nant left her home and has spent the last ten years abroad. Throughout those years, she says that she has “learned what it’s like to be free,” particularly in the United States where people can peacefully speak up for what they believe in without fear of committing a crime.

“During my senior year of high school, I learned about Andrews University through my Louisville church,” Nant recounts. She felt herself drawn to the University, as it provided opportunities to pursue her deeply rooted passion for healthcare, and decided to attend. She chose to major in Biology with a Biomedical concentration and minor in Chemistry, with the ultimate goal of becoming a physician assistant.

Currently a junior, Nant expresses, “I feel God has brought me to Andrews to confirm that He is a loving and caring God.” Although her parents were raised in a Buddhist household, Nant was brought up in a Christian village and found herself wanting to learn more about Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. She has found the University to be a diverse, friendly place, noting, “Andrews has provided me with numerous life-changing experiences, such as meeting people from various cultures.” She has enjoyed encountering both

GRACE

NANT HAS FOUND THE UNIVERSITY TO BE A DIVERSE, FRIENDLY PLACE, NOTING, “ANDREWS HAS PROVIDED ME WITH NUMEROUS LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES, SUCH AS MEETING PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS CULTURES.”

professors and classmates, finding every person to be pleasant, helpful and supportive.

Throughout an array of math, science, religion, fitness and writing classes, her fascination with science only grew. Although she struggled to grasp some of the more difficult scientific concepts due to English being her fifth language, she credits a combination of “God’s grace and my professors’ faith in me and my hard work and effort” as the key to overcoming those obstacles. She has continued to enjoy learning about how the human body functions, explaining, “All of my biology classes have confirmed my desire to pursue a career in medicine.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the necessity of remote learning, Nant endured the significant and challenging transition to studying via Zoom. She has been particularly grateful for professors who did their best to teach and keep in touch with their students, noting, “My lecturers are really resourceful and help me achieve in my academics, even though I am taking classes online.” Happily, Nant plans to be on campus for the fall semester. Excited to participate in face-to-face classes once again, she says, “I’m thrilled to be able to return to college this fall, and I can’t wait!”

An involved member of multiple University groups, even when at a distance, Nant contributes notably to the Andrews community. She has membership in the Pre-Medical Society, the Chemistry Club, the

Women’s Empowerment Association of Andrews University (WEAAU), Biophilia, and the Southern Asian Student Association (SASA). She also serves as outreach coordinator for the Revive club which performs both inreach and outreach in praise of God. “Revive is more than a worship space,” Nant enthuses. “It brings individuals from all walks of life together to share and serve God’s teachings as a family. Revive gives me a sense of belonging.” Her duties have included visitation to individuals in need of food, shelter and worship, as well as helping with weekly vespers and Bible studies. Through her participation in the club, Nant discovered a passion for helping children and sharing God’s Word with them, finding purpose in engaging with those in need.

In the midst of her busy Andrews life, news of Nant’s home country swept across the world. On February 1, 2021, directly following the democratic election of Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), military commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing successfully took control of Myanmar. Before they could be sworn in, the newly elected officials were imprisoned. In the wake of these events, as well as an ongoing civil conflict between the Karen ethnic group and Burmese’s military, thousands of people took to the streets in peaceful protest, faced with beatings, kidnappings, detainment and death.

FAITH

“PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MYANMAR’S PROBLEMS, AS THEY ARE NOT ONLY ABOUT POLITICS BUT ALSO ABOUT INJUSTICE.”

Nant watched as her people were captured, kidnapped and attacked. She saw reports of how journalists, reporters and peaceful protestors alike were detained, jailed, hurt and killed.

She felt a personal, devastating blow. Unable to eat or sleep during the first week of the crisis, Nant received news of family members and a very close friend who were abused and even killed in the military takeover and civil conflict within the country. She recalls, “My heart was heavy, and seeing the injustice made me feel uneasy, unhappy and angry.”

Preoccupied and anxious, she struggled with why such awful things were happening and tried to understand where God was in all of the tragedy. A response came through the people around her. “God has been extremely generous to me,” says Nant. “He never forgets about me and has proven it by providing me with several counselors and teachers, as well as friends, to help me through this difficult time.” Nant also began attending Bible studies with pastors, professing, “I am steadily recuperating from my losses, thanks to God’s grace.”

Other students at Andrews began to share their personal connections to Myanmar/Burma, reassuring Nant with the fact that she was not alone. At a vespers program in early March, several students addressed the violence in the country and the necessity of becoming involved in order to speak up for the voiceless.

Nant found her own voice in the months following as

well, asserting, “I don’t want to see young folks like me fearful and protesting when they should be studying like I am. When youngsters should be in school, I don’t want to see them selling flowers and food.” To raise awareness, she has participated in both nonviolent protests and fundraising from the United States with the purpose of providing food for citizens in need under the current dictatorship.

A heart for service and care for other people has prompted Nant to speak out for change. She expresses, “Myanmar has been ruled by a military coup for far too long, and our never-ending civil war continues.” She hopes that others will take time to educate themselves, respectfully asking, “Please take the time to learn more about Myanmar’s problems, as they are not only about politics but also about injustice.”

In the future, Nant plans to attend a PA program at Kettering College after graduation. Once she has obtained her degree, she hopes to return to her village and create a non-profit clinic in order to provide free services to those who cannot afford it — a way to pass on to others the grace she herself has been granted. She also wishes to aid children who want to learn but don’t have the means to attend school. With the continued goal of helping others as well as she can, Nant affirms, “I’m willing to serve wherever God leads me.” ■

Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



▲ Nant has worked to peacefully raise awareness of her home country, Myanmar.



▲ The physician lounge art exhibits

AMITA Health provides program to counter physician burnout

Almost half of U.S. physicians report signs of burnout, so AMITA Health is making it a priority to provide mental health help to its physicians, drawing on the system's experience in behavioral health.

"We are very well connected at AMITA with mental health resources — it's a best practice for us — and that allows us the opportunity to speak to that [issue] in a different way," said Heather Hoffman, regional director of Clinical Mission Integration.

Many of the physician wellness efforts at AMITA began within AdventHealth. Ted Hamilton, MD, AdventHealth chief Mission Integration officer and chairman of the Coalition for Physician Well-being, explained, "Doctors are people, too — subject to human emotions, such as anxiety, depression and loneliness. The stress of

the pandemic has magnified and highlighted the incidence of professional isolation, burnout and even suicide. It is often difficult for physicians to identify, or admit to, their own troublesome symptoms, making it essential for healthcare organizations like AdventHealth to extend the healing ministry of Jesus to physicians and their families, taking the initiative to lift them up, addressing identified problems and helping restore doctors to health and well-being."

AMITA formalized its program under the Clinical Mission Integration program in 2018, but parts of it had been in place for years. "We have tried to grow the program, which initially started with our Adventist hospitals," said Lanny Wilson, MD, who spearheads the program with Hoffman, "and we've been embraced by the AMITA culture."

AMITA offers a variety of resources to its physicians, including:

- Psychological support service. Originally used only at the Adventist hospitals, it's now available throughout the system.
- Schwartz Rounds, a program designed to give physicians an opportunity to talk about issues they face in their work. A change to Whole-Person Care Conferences, similar to Schwartz Rounds but offers broader spiritual components, is being considered.
- Art. Physician artwork is displayed in physician lounges, providing an outlet for the artist and a calming environment for the physicians. Recent online offerings for physicians/spouses were well-received, so similar options in the future likely will be available.
- Finding Meaning in Medicine, small groups led by a physician and a facilitator which discuss a predetermined topic.
- A website that addresses many aspects of mental health.
- The Well-Being Index, a self-assessment app to check for signs of burnout.

In addition, AMITA is planning to introduce other programs, including a pilot program for physician onboarding at the Adventist hospitals. It involves both screening to identify mission-minded physicians as well as a peer mentoring program.

The efforts are bearing fruit: AMITA physicians scored well above average for resiliency on a recent survey. But, Wilson and Hoffman agree, there is still work to be done.

"We have a mission of whole-person care. But if we don't start with our own physicians and encourage them to take care of themselves — mind, body and spirit, then we'll never be able to fully treat our patients in that same way," Hoffman said. ■

Julie Busch, AMITA Health, associate vice president for Internal Communication

New undergraduate office launched



▲ Aaron Moushon

In June 2021, Andrews University announced the new Office of Undergraduate Education which was created to support the work of faculty, departments, schools and colleges on the Andrews University campus. “The Office of Undergraduate Education will provide a framework for initiatives and projects created in collaboration with the University’s colleges to enhance undergraduate education across the institution,” says Amy Rebok Rosenthal, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and dean of Undergraduate Education.

Initially, it will focus on providing general support for the academic onboarding of new freshman and transfer students by creating a centralized hub of information and services that emphasizes connecting new students to existing resources within each college. Additionally, the Office of Undergraduate Education will facilitate first-year support to help students identify and explore areas of interest while providing a curricular structure focused on key academic success



▲ Hayley Sanchez

factors, such as credit-hour and course completion.

The office also plans to coordinate summer programming for pre-college students that will introduce them to the University’s culture and academic offerings. This programming will supplement the recruitment efforts of the Division of Marketing & Enrollment Management as well as the individual colleges.

“The Office of Undergraduate Education will function as an academic concierge service for undergraduate students,” says Aaron Moushon, who is moving into the new role of assistant dean for Undergraduate Initiatives. “We will work closely with Marketing & Enrollment Management, Academic Records, International Student Services & Programs and individual academic departments to provide efficient and timely customer service for academic issues,” says Moushon.

In his previous role as director of Academic Exploration and head of Advising

Services, Moushon worked with programs such as Early College and Explore Andrews. These programs now will be housed within the Office of Undergraduate Education as they also provide academic support to undergraduate students. “The Explore Andrews Program exists to help students who are unsure of their undergraduate program find the best major for their abilities, talents and long-term career goals,” explains Moushon. “Students work with a dedicated academic advisor for one or two semesters and explore major and career options through individual advising, faculty engagement and job shadowing. In addition, we coordinate advising services and conduct yearly advisor training and development events for our staff and faculty advisors.”

In the Office of Undergraduate Education, Hayley Sanchez, who has a background in counseling and academic support, will serve as the undergraduate advising coordinator. She will work as a general advisor and liaison to faculty and program advisors.

Moushon and Sanchez also will work with the new director of Career Services to provide support for undergraduate vocational exploration, internships and networking.

Moushon reiterates that the Office of Undergraduate Education will offer academic support for all new and current undergraduate students. He says, “If a student is confused as to who can help solve a problem, we want them to come to our office as a central hub for information and campus service. Although we won’t solve every issue in our office, we will make sure that students know exactly which office or individual on campus can solve their problem and facilitate the connection.”

The Office of Undergraduate Education is located in Nethery Hall and can be reached at 269-471-3382 or via explore@andrews.edu. ■

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



▲ Left to right: Rabbi David Saperstein, recent United States Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Nicholas Miller, Andrews University professor, and Michael Suhr, current Ambassador for Religious Freedom of Denmark, collaborated on a policy paper for the G-20 in Italy.

Andrews University seminary professor collaborates on COVID-19 religious freedom project for G-20 Summit

Nicholas P. Miller, Andrews University professor of Church History and director of the International Religious Liberty Institute, recently presented a policy paper on the topic of “COVID-19 and Religious Liberty” at a Freedom of Religion or Belief working group that met in conjunction with the pre-meetings of the G-20 in Matera, Italy, June 28–30.

An updated version of the paper will be submitted to the G-20 in Bologna, Italy, this September. The G-20, a gathering of leading national governments, deals

with economic and human rights issues and makes important decisions impacting financial, economic, environmental and social issues for approximately 80 percent of the world’s population.

Miller shares, “I’m working with the Interfaith Forum, which seeks to bring religious values and appreciation for freedom of religion and belief to the G-20 process.” At the meetings in Matera, he collaborated with other religious and legal scholars to draft proposals for greater religious involvement in the G-20, as well as increased protection for religious belief.

The basis for the policy paper originated from a research project led by Miller and Alexis Artaud de La Ferrière, senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Portsmouth. It seeks to find a fair balance between religious freedom and public health through constructive dialogue.

“The pandemic year has highlighted the importance of religious input into economic and social decisions, as religious practices have often been the first to be limited and the last to be restored in many locations,” Miller expresses. “We also believe that religious people and bodies have much to contribute to the social and moral discourse of our day.”

As part of its commitment to international reach, those involved with the project have collaborated on a number of fronts, including a virtual conference in December 2020, sponsored by Andrews University, Brigham Young University Law School and the University of Portsmouth. The event invited scholars from across the U.S. and Canada to interact with those from Europe to understand similarities and differences between pandemic closings and religious freedom across countries. Miller explains, “This kind of comparison can help us understand how to better protect religious freedom during public health emergencies.”

As a result of the December conference, in March, the Andrews University International Religious Liberty Institute, along with Miller and Ferrière, were invited to become part of a working group on Freedom of Religion and Belief of the Interfaith Forum, which collaborates with leaders of the G-20. Miller notes the profile this gives Andrews University in having “a seat at the table of discussion about religious freedom issues not only nationally, but internationally.”

Edited papers eventually will be released as a special edition of a journal published by the International Religious Liberty Association, and the team plans to publish a book of additional materials. More information on the project can be found at the website: covid-religiousliberty.org. ■

Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



CONGRESS ON
Social Justice

14-16
OCTOBER
HYBRID EVENT

▲ From Thursday, Oct. 14, to Sunday, Oct. 16, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University will host the Congress on Social Justice.

Andrews University to host Congress on Social Justice

From Thursday, Oct. 14, to Sunday, Oct. 16, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University will host the Congress on Social Justice, an event designed to highlight global issues of imbalance as well as the biblical solutions that address them.

The biblical account of Creation reveals that humanity was created in God's image and granted authority to rule over animals and other elements of His creation. However, the entrance of sin brought about disequilibrium to all relationships and disrupted the ecological balance. Guest speakers at the Congress will emphasize humanity's role in caring for creation and addressing the existing injustices.

Willie Hucks, associate professor of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics and chair of the Congress on Social Justice Planning Committee, says that our world suffers from a disequilibrium in its relationship with God, others and the environment. "I hope that those who attend will be educated about issues of social justice, equipped to tackle them, and empowered to make a difference in their communities," he shares.

The Congress will take place as a hybrid event with in-person and virtual attendance options available.

On Thursday, Oct. 14, Christian

Dumitrescu will deliver the keynote address, titled "Sex Trafficking and Social Justice." Dumitrescu teaches World Mission and Intercultural Studies and Research at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) in the Philippines. Editor for the Journal of Asia Adventist Seminary and a regional editor for the Journal of Adventist Mission Studies, he also has spent several decades studying current social issues.

Akintayo Odeyemi will speak for the first plenary session on Friday, Oct. 15. His presentation is titled "Female Genital Mutilation and Social Justice." Odeyemi has been an active player in the community development industry for more than a quarter century, serving most recently as executive director in the ADRA Africa Regional Office with initial responsibilities of Programs and Planning director as well as emergency management and strategic planning.

Joel Raveloharimisy, associate professor of Behavioral Sciences at Andrews University, will present "Environment and Social Justice" for the second plenary session on Friday. Raveloharimisy works to alleviate poverty in Madagascar and has raised funds for construction of classrooms, school buildings and churches there. He helped establish the first ophthalmological clinic and education center in the country and started the group "Actions for Madagascar," which creates positive and sustainable changes in Madagascar.

On Saturday, Oct. 16, Wintley Phipps

will deliver the sermon during the worship service. Phipps is a Seventh-day Adventist minister as well as a singer, songwriter, record producer and founder of the U.S. Dream Academy, Songs of Freedom Publishing Company and Coral Records Recording Company.

Throughout the Congress, a number of breakout sessions will cover topics such as "Social Justice, Adventism and Fundamentalism," "Domestic Abuse and Social Justice," "Preaching Social Justice" and "Restorative Justice." A musical worship service also will take place on Saturday evening.

Registration fees for the Congress on Social Justice are as follows.

- **International rate** (Africa/Central and South America/Asia): \$19
- **Student rate** (Andrews University students only): \$29
- **Early bird rate** (through Aug. 15): \$59 (in-person), \$39 (remote)
- **Regular rate** (Aug. 15–Sept. 30): \$79 (in-person), \$59 (remote)
- **Late registration** (after Sept. 30): \$99 (in-person), \$79 (remote)

For registration and a full itinerary of events, visit the Department of Christian Ministry webpage. For more information, email csj@andrews.edu or call 269-471-6371. ■

Moriah McDonald, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



Darren Heslop

▲ Andrews University campus entrance

Andrews University launches a certificate in Global Leadership

The Andrews University Department of Leadership is offering a new certificate aimed at nurturing professionals, students, entrepreneurs and organizational leaders into world changers with a spiritual mission.

The Global Leadership Certificate, offered online beginning September 2021, was established with the goal of empowering people in the workplace “to be catalysts for social reformation, soul healing, and spiritual regeneration.” Erich Baumgartner, director, shares further, “The Global Leadership Certificate was created as a laboratory to equip professionals for their spiritual calling to be World Changers. It is designed for the marketplace.”

The curriculum consists of five classes taught online over five semesters

followed by a “World Changer” capstone event. The set of classes is available as a Professional Leadership Certificate or a Graduate Leadership Certificate for credit that can later be transferred into the Andrews’ MA or doctorate in leadership.

Instructors for the certificate are Thom Wolf, a social entrepreneur who has trained hundreds of change makers; Gabriela Phillips, the Adventist Muslim Relations coordinator for the North American Division; Boubakar Sanou, associate professor of Cross-cultural Leadership at Andrews University; and Erich Baumgartner, the director of the Global Leadership Institute as well as the PhD in Leadership program at Andrews University.

For more information, please visit andrews.edu/go/global or send questions to leader@andrews.edu. ■

Jeff Boyd, Media Relations manager, University Communication, Andrews University

Allegheny East Conference mourns loss of president and wife in house fire

Early Sunday morning, July 18, Henry J. Fordham III, president of the Allegheny East Conference (AEC), and his wife, Sharon Elaine (Wright) Fordham, passed away due to a fire in their home in Douglassville, Penn. Their son, Shawn Fordham, who was with them at the time of the fire, sustained minor injuries and was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for smoke inhalation. He is in stable condition and expected to be released soon. The cause of the fire has not been determined and is still under investigation.

CAREER

At the time of his death, Elder Fordham was serving as president of AEC, a post he held since October 2012.

After graduating from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., in 1973 with degrees in Theology and History, he went on to attend Ohio State University where he obtained a master’s degree in Jewish Theology. Elder Fordham spent his entire 47-year ministerial career serving the AEC as a teacher, pastor, departmental leader and administrator.

For two years, he taught history at Pine Forge Academy (Penn.), where he previously attended as a student. He then pastored the Sharon Temple Church in Wilmington, Del., the Emmanuel-Brinklow church in Ashton, Md., and the Berea Temple church in Baltimore. From Berea Temple, he was elected as the Ministerial, Personal Ministries and Religious Liberty director for AEC, headquartered in Pine Forge. While in this role, he also served as interim pastor at several churches within the AEC territory. He later was elected to serve as conference executive secretary, a position he held for several years before



▲ Henry J. Fordham III, president of the Allegheny East Conference, and his wife, Sharon Elaine (Wright) Fordham, passed away in a fire in their home in Douglassville, Penn.

becoming president. As conference president, he chaired the AEC Executive Committee and served on the Oakwood University, Washington Adventist University and Adventist Healthcare boards, among others.

Sharon Fordham worked for the United States Social Security Administration office in Baltimore for several years. In addition, she dedicated her life to raising her children and grandchildren. As first lady of the Columbia Union's second largest conference, she was instrumental in supporting her husband's ministry. She often accompanied him to churches, meetings and itineraries abroad. The Fordhams, both 77 at the time of their deaths, had been married for 53 years.

FAMILY

Family was of the utmost importance to them as they were very close-knit. Sharon recently had been battling brain cancer, during which time Henry lovingly supported and cared for her with the help of their sons.

They leave to mourn three sons: Joey, Donovan and Shawn, several grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their daughter, Danielle, preceded them in death. ■

*LaTasha Hewitt, Allegheny East Conference
Communication director*



▲ From left to right: The Ngaih Cin family — SangPi, Cady, Pastor SB Ngaih Cin, his wife, Ma Aye, and KhaiKhai

Refugees empowered as Adventist leaders in ministry on World Refugee Sabbath

The North American Division and the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church designate a special day each year during the month of June for Refugee Sabbath ("World Refugee Sabbath") to raise awareness of the needs of the unprecedented numbers of refugees who have fled their homes due to war and persecution.

This year, on June 19, two significant events occurred on Refugee Sabbath, serving to empower refugees and their leaders in ministry.

Arkansas Company

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference organized the Clarksville Karen Company as a church on World Refugee Sabbath, and recognized their leader, Naylkowah Moo. The group has grown from two families when they first arrived from the refugee camp in Thailand to more than

60 members in less than seven years. Each Karen congregation in the North American Division holds three services every Sabbath: Sabbath School, worship and AY (Adventist Youth).

Jimmy Shwe, an Adventist pastor who serves as division-wide church planting consultant for this language group, along with the local leaders of each congregation, actively empower and mentor the youth in ministry. This is evident in the high level of youth involvement in Karen congregations across the NAD.

Michigan Camp Meeting

Also on World Refugee Sabbath, during Michigan camp meeting, the Michigan Conference and Lake Union ordained Pastor SB Luan Ngaih Cin, who came to the United States as a refugee with his wife, Ma Aye, and three children in 2012. Ngaih Cin pastors the Grand Rapids Zomi Company and the Battle Creek Zomi group. He also served for four years as secretary of the division-wide Zomi Seventh-day Adventist advisory.

Each of Ngaih Cin's children is active in ministry. His daughter, Cady Cin, led

in the launch of Myanmar Community Services, an Adventist Community Services Center in Grand Rapids, Mich. His older son, KhaiKhai, serves as a pastor in Kent, Wash., and their youngest son, SangPi, is working for the Michigan Conference this summer as an auditor, soon to graduate from Andrews University with a degree in accounting.

People in Peril

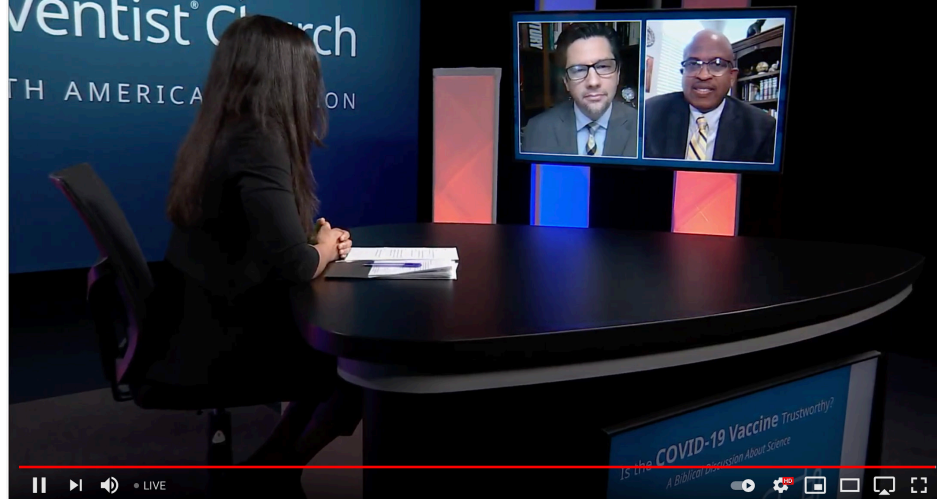
Both of these leaders and their members, along with a total of 55 Karen congregations, 15 Zomi congregations and 13 Burmese-speaking congregations in the North American Division, are from Myanmar, a country that is currently experiencing extreme political unrest after a military coup followed the February 2021 election, which has led to extreme hunger, violence and loss of life — and the threat of civil war.

Please join the pastors, lay leaders and members of these congregations here in North America in prayer for their friends and family members back home in Myanmar who are now in danger.

Please pray also for the more than 82.4 million people worldwide who are forcibly displaced, 48 million of which are internally displaced within their home country, and more than 20 million of which are refugees who have fled from their home countries. ■

For more information on how to reach out to the more than three million refugees who have come to the United States and Canada since 1975, visit the Adventist Refugee & Immigrant Ministries website (<https://www.refugee.ministries.org/>) or visit the Facebook page.

Terri Saelee is coordinator of the North American Division Adventist Refugee & Immigrant Ministries.



▲ Mylon Medley asks communication experts Costin Jordache and Garret Caldwell tips on communicating information clearly and compassionately during session four of the May 15 symposium titled “Is the COVID Vaccine Trustworthy? — A Biblical Conversation About Science.”

Symposium broadcast on COVID-19 vaccine, the Bible, science and faith draws large number of viewers

EXPERTS IN HEALTHCARE, COMMUNICATION, THEOLOGY AND CHURCH HISTORY RESPOND TO QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

“Welcome to our special dialogue today,” said Carlton P. Byrd, Breath of Life TV Ministries speaker/director, at the beginning of the North American Division’s COVID-19 vaccine symposium broadcast on May 15. “Our goal during our time together is to help find answers to some of the questions that have arisen about the COVID vaccine, and help you make an informed decision on [whether] the vaccine is right for you and your loved ones,” Byrd added.

The special symposium, titled “Is the COVID Vaccine Trustworthy? — A Biblical Conversation About Science,” included healthcare professionals, communication experts and church theologians dialoguing about the interconnectedness of the Bible and science, sharing tips on how to provide appropriate messaging to others, and providing information so viewers are able to make well-informed decisions about getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Presenters also took questions from emails sent in for the question-and-answer portion of the event.

The symposium, a combination of live and pre-recorded segments, aired on Hope

Channel, the NAD Facebook page, and the NAD YouTube channel. Close to 1,300 watched live on Facebook and YouTube combined; thousands more were able to watch on the Hope Channel.

Hosts Byrd and Roy Ice, Faith For Today TV Ministries speaker/director, guided viewers through the conversation, while Mylon Medley, an assistant director of Communication for the NAD, facilitated each of the five sessions of the symposium and the concluding Q&A.

Presenters included noted evangelist Mark Finley; church historian Merlin Burt; Drs. Peter Landless and David Williams; communication experts Garrett Caldwell and Costin Jordache; India Medley, vice president/CNO for Howard University Hospital; and several scientists, doctors, public health professionals and pastors. G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, offered a devotional thought at the symposium’s conclusion.

“We knew, at the start of this work, that we’d need to take a collaborative approach to discussions about the COVID-19 vaccines,” said Angeline Brauer, NAD Health Ministries director and part of the team that organized the symposium. “Numerous complex and contentious issues surrounding the vaccines have been debated in society and sometimes used as weapons. We wanted to come to the table with a different approach — one that brings hope and wholeness.”

Personal Experience

Before session number one got under way, Jaquenette Prillman, a nurse and an

Adventist, shared glimpses from her harrowing experience with the novel coronavirus disease, explaining that one year ago, on Mother's Day, she was finally released from the hospital, with oxygen, after weeks of battling the disease. "I kept saying that I was air hungry and I could not breathe," Prillman shared, as symptoms onset in April 2020. She described suffering with fever, chills and hallucinations; and, in addition to breathing difficulties, Prillman said that during her illness she lost the ability to speak as her organs began to shut down.

She believes it was a miracle that saved her — and the excellent medical care she received. But this illness has a lasting effect, she said. "I believe we should be fostering authentic, open conversations on mental health and wellness. We need to be deliberate," Prillman said. "The mental health burden was real and present for me. But I also was very blessed to be surrounded by a spouse and friends who understood and prioritized my emotional well-being. As I reflect on my experience and the events of the past year, in our country, around the world, and what is currently happening in India, the numerous loss of lives as a result of the virus, how grateful I am to God for sparing me. I have no doubt He is still working in me and through me."

Starting Dialogue

The first session, themed "Spiritual Foundation and Respect for Individual Choice," focused on Adventist Church history on vaccines, the current position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on vaccines, how to respect individual choice and recognize legitimate concerns, what the Adventist health message means — and the balance between maintaining a healthful lifestyle and accepting the benefits of modern medicine. Medley brought up one of the first concerns sent in for the symposium, which stated, "If I take the vaccine, not only am I demonstrating a lack of faith, I am inheriting the mark of the beast."

Before diving into the topic, Finley shared three points about free will, unity in the church and Christian ethics. Then he fielded the concern, saying, "The mark of the beast has absolutely nothing to do with vaccines."

He referenced the Three Angels' Messages in Revelation 14, explaining that Seventh-day Adventists, taking Revelation 14:7 into account as a call to worship the Creator, understand that the essence of the great controversy could be over the issue of worship. Finley continued on to Revelation 14:9, where people are warned to not worship the beast; and finally to verse 12, which references keeping the commandments of God.

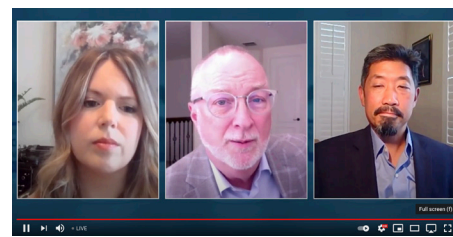
"Seventh-day Adventists understand that there's a conflict over the law of God, the character of God, and that in the life of people saved by grace, they'll respond to keeping God's commandments," he shared. There are two problems with the "idea that one can embed, in the vaccine, something that will change the DNA; and that that is receiving the mark of the beast. One, it's not scientific. And two, it is certainly not theological. We see the mark of the beast issue over worship."

"Ellen White called the question of vaccines 'perplexing,'" said Burt, Ellen G. White Estate director, in answer to a question about early Adventists and their thoughts on medicine. "She didn't have clear, divine revelation on vaccines. She was watching it, and [the people] were kind of negative about it for a while. But later, as the vaccines had less complications, and there was more safety connected with them, other staff members again thought it would be good to get a vaccine for smallpox. And so they did do that, with Ellen White's support."

Burt described a conversation in which White was asked if it would've been a sin to give quinine to a person suffering with malaria. She supported the administering of medicine in light of the information she had learned about it being more dangerous to have the disease.



▲ Dr. Peter N. Landless, General Conference Health Ministries director, addresses the connection between faith and science at the North American Division's COVID-19 vaccine symposium on May 15.



▲ Left to right: Cassandra McNulty, Steven Smith and Vincent Hsu address vaccine science and public health in the second session of the May 15 NAD COVID-19 vaccine symposium.

"Ellen White replied, 'No, we are expected to do the best we can,'" shared Burt. "This principle of using 'sanctified common sense,' and being aware of circumstances, is an important factor that we learn from history."

When asked about the Adventist health message and current Church policies regarding vaccination, Landless, GC Health Ministries director, said "Our health message is founded on the Bible. It's informed by the Spirit of Prophecy and is consonant, to a large extent, with a robust amount of peer-reviewed evidence based on health science."

Landless went on to explain that the Church does have a statement in favor of "responsible immunization." "If you look at what has prolonged life, it's healthful living. It's sanitation; it's clean water. And what is added to the longevity of those basic factors has been immunization," he said. "We encourage responsible immunization and have no religious- or faith-based reason not to encourage it. We encourage community



▲ NAD COVID-19 vaccine symposium Q&A panelists (left to right, top to bottom) include Peter N. Landless, David Williams, India Medley, Costin Jordache and Vincent Hsu — doctors, public health specialists and communication experts.

immunity, but it's very much the individual's choice — we are not the conscience of the church member."

The Process and the Public

The second and third sessions included conversations on the basic science of vaccines; why vaccines are important for public health measures; the process of developing vaccines and the role of the government in regulating this process; dispelling myths while recognizing legitimate concerns about vaccines — and the COVID-19 vaccines in particular; and recognizing specific population needs. Participants included Cassandra McNulty, Steven Smith, Vincent Hsu, David Williams, Andrew Cantanzaro and India Medley.

Hsu, an internal medicine specialist for AdventHealth, explained that vaccines are used to prevent disease and save lives. He talked about how it's important that people know how vaccines were and are made. "This is a very personal decision for all of us; we all need to make an informed decision," Hsu said.

"We've all heard people talk about how they think there were shortcuts in [making the vaccines] and that the process by which these were developed was somehow rushed," said Smith, vice president and chief scientific

officer of AdventHealth, and principal investigator of the Janssen Pharmaceuticals COVID-19 vaccine clinic trial, after comparing how vaccines were made in the past with current technologies.

"I can say this: we have a scientific review committee that has looked at all of the different vaccines we've talked about here this afternoon. And the vaccine was made quickly because the technology allows it to be made quickly. The trials were, in many ways, larger and longer than some of the flu vaccine trials that have been conducted in the past."

In addressing the connection between the science and helping to share information with the public, McNulty, a public health professional, said, "We need to be prepared: know the information and feel comfortable communicating it to the patients." She also said that medical experts need to communicate clearly that, because this is a novel virus, they don't have it all figured out.

"That doesn't mean that science and medicine don't know what they're talking about. We must communicate where our knowledge ends and where we're still learning," McNulty stated. "Getting the vaccine is a hard decision for families. It's helpful to come with a posture of empathy, and curiosity — asking questions and trying to understand why

someone is making the decision that they are, and creating an environment in which it is safe to ask questions."

"We're only going to get through this together. We need to be able to have those conversations that play a key role in helping patients navigate this," added McNulty.

"Vaccines are important to the health of a community," said Williams, chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "If you get vaccinated, you've protected yourself. And you no longer spread it to others so you are benefiting the community."

Compassionate Communication

The fourth session centered on good practices in finding and communicating information about COVID-19 and vaccines. Jordache and Caldwell spoke on how to politely disagree with others and recognize different perspectives and how to respect personal health information when talking about vaccines. They also touched on how to navigate conspiracy theories — and the importance of using credible sources of information.

"Our words matter. The way that we deliver our words, the way that we speak to each other matters," said Jordache, vice president, Public Relations and Marketing for Adventist HealthCare. He shared Bible verses Proverbs 15:1 and 4.

"As Christians we have a responsibility to communicate wisely and gently about any topic, especially ones that are sensitive. When we don't communicate gently and respectfully and responsibly with each other, the result is that it polarizes our communities and pulls us apart," he added.

Extending the conversation further, Caldwell, director of Stakeholder Communications at AdventHealth, talked about following God's instructions to take care of our bodies, described as temples in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. "Stewardship extends beyond our own body," Caldwell said. "It extends to the relationships we have with other people in the care we exercise toward [them]. This is an important reason why we

should prayerfully and thoughtfully consider a vaccine — not just your care for your own body, but your care for the vulnerable people you encounter.”

Mental Health Challenges

The final session, themed “A Time for Mission & Healing,” focused on addressing mental health challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic; recognizing the impact this disease has had on children, teens, adults and families; and giving practical tips for rebounding after those challenges. Participants included Ingrid Slikkers, social worker and professor at Andrews University, and Armando Miranda Jr., NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries associate director. Miranda spoke about the youth he knows who have been impacted by the months of quarantine and how staying in touch with friends, even online, has helped.

“Secular social scientists are saying it, but we’ve known this from Scripture: we are better together. Resilience is a big word that we use a lot now — and we know that the number one thing for resiliency is relationship,” said Slikkers.

“God models that for us in our vertical relationship with Him, but He expects that we do this with each other,” she added. “This is about ‘the golden rule.’ Pause and think about where we are with others. Are we helping each other walk home?”

Slikkers said calling people on the phone, and having respectful conversations, is one important way to maintain the connections people need. “We know that healing from trauma cannot happen unless you’re in relationship and you’re in community. And what a privilege and an honor that we have our Adventist community. How many more can we bring into our community?” she asked.

Where Does Faith Fit?

Several people sent questions in about faith and the vaccine for the final Q&A portion.

Landless specifically addressed this query: “Am I demonstrating a lack of faith by taking the vaccinations? And what is the importance

of our health message, our lifestyle, our beliefs in helping to prevent disease?”

“I have no question that by living this amazing health message that God has entrusted to this church as a gift of grace that we do have increased quality of life, even in our broken state. And sometimes, often, we may even have increased length of life,” answered Landless. “But we are not going to have eternal life on this earth until Jesus comes. And so, what are we really trying to do?”

Landless continued, “Never forget, the reason this Church was given a health message was not so that we could be long-lived sinners. It’s because our work is not yet finished. When asked that question, Ellen White was very clear. We were given this message because our work is not yet done. So whatever means God entrusts to us, gives to us — if it’s helpful, if it’s sensible, if it stands the tests of evidence-based, peer-reviewed health science and is carefully and responsibly done — I do not believe that [using] this is a denial of our faith.”

He brought up the biblical example of Naaman, who was told to bathe in the river for healing. He shared the story of Jesus healing the blind man with His saliva. God didn’t have to ask them to do that. But there was an intermediate. Said Landless, “I don’t believe it’s a question of lack of faith. Viewing the Bible and science in the right way should

give us an increased encouragement that we are not denying faith. In fact, we are utilizing an instrument He has placed in our hands.”

Pressing Together, Living for Christ

“It’s been so heartening to see the varied perspectives, experiences and expertise come together for this program. As we’ve seen, the choices we each make do have an impact on the lives of those around us,” Brauer said. “I believe that respectful dialogue, earnest seeking for truth, and prayers for the unity that comes through the graces of the Holy Spirit will help us all come through this crisis. We will be stronger if we press together and press towards Christ.”

“The NAD vaccine taskforce’s main goal for the symposium was to provide information to address the concerns of those hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine so they would feel equipped and at peace with their decision,” said Melissa Reid, associate director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the NAD, and an organizer of the event. “We additionally wanted to emphasize the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s commitment to whole-person health and its respect for individual choice. I was blessed by the presentations and pray that others were as well. May we continue to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance as we seek to live for Christ.” ■

Kimberly Luste Maran is associate director of Communication at the North American Division.



▲ G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, shares a devotional thought at the conclusion of the May 15 COVID-19 vaccine symposium.

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.

BIRTHDAY



Bettye (McGlothlin) GOLDSMITH celebrated her 100th birthday on June 27, 2021 (which *is* her birthdate), with a surprise party at her church. A member of the Huntingburg Church (Huntingburg, Ind.) for 36 years, she also worked as a registered nurse for 36 years, missing only one day of work in that entire time. In 1985, at the age of 64, she was baptized on the same day as her mother, Aleene. She served her church in various roles over the years but, mostly, as an example of a humble, God-loving person.

ANNIVERSARY



Dave and Mary PERLBERG celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2021. They were married in Hinsdale, Ill., on June 18, 1961. They are long-time members of the Rhinelander Church in Rhinelander, Wis.

Dave keeps busy with fishing and tending the vegetable garden while Mary volunteers at the church thrift store and keeps the flower gardens looking nice. They both enjoy their daily walk together and spending time with family whenever possible.

They have three children: Jon of Chetek, Wis.; Kris of Stoughton, Wis.; and Dawn of Carney, Mich. They also have been blessed with three wonderful grandchildren.

OBITUARIES

FROST, Donald, age 78; born April 30, 1942, in Jamaica; died July 18, 2020, in Chicago. He was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago. He was survived by his daughter, Odah Frost. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Jonathan Burnett; interment was in Bohemian National Cemetery, Chicago.

McFARLAND, Karen Elisabeth (Knapp), age 80; born Dec. 12, 1940, in Flint, Mich.; died June 23, 2021, in Pasadena, Calif. She was a member of the Grand Rapids Center Church in Walker, Mich. Survivors include her husband, James McFarland; sons, Brett (Barbara) McFarland, and Todd (Jan) McFarland; brothers, Col. S. Charles USAR (Mary) Knapp; and five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Jim Pedersen, NCC president retired; interment.

MANOOGIAN, Eve (Hogan), age 94; born March 31, 1926, in Chicago; died Dec. 12, 2020, in Hayesville, N.C. She was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago. Survivors include her sons, Bob Manoogian, and Adam Manoogian; daughters, Victoria Tiffany, and Laura Huth; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Private funeral services and inurnment.

VARGAS, Raquel (Rosado), age 84; born June 6, 1937, in Arecibo, Puerto Rico; died July 2, 2021, in Chicago. She was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago. Survivors include her daughter, Tania (Edgar) Vargas de Perez; and sister, Siefy Rosado Rodriguez. Memorial services were conducted by Pastors Roger Beltran and Jonathan Burnett; private inurnment.

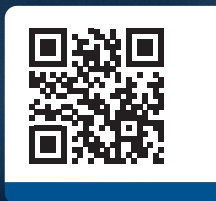
WORCESTER, Allegra (Kroll), age 84; born May 29, 1934, in Augusta, Ga.; died April 3, 2021, in Niles, Mich. She was a member of the Grand Ledge Church, in Grand Ledge, Mich. Survivors include her son, Charles (Anita) Collatz; daughters, Sandra (Randy) Rzanca, and Susan (Howard) Collatz-Krug; brother, Sam Kroll; sister, Thelma (Ollie) Wilson; as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held in Niles, Mich.; interment was in Deepdale Cemetery, Lansing, Mich.

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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>.

JOIN UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY IN CELEBRATING 100 YEARS of ministry, service and God's blessings at our centennial weekend, **Sept. 17–19**. Sabbath service speaker is Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference of SDAs. Honored speakers include Bill Knott and John Thomas. Visit our website for details and updates — unionspringsacademy.org!

PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND, Oct. 1–2, at Dakota Academy. Come and

renew your friendships. Honor classes: 1946/1947, '51/'52, '56/'57, '61/'62, '66/'67, '71/'72, '76/'77, '81/'82, '86/'87, '91/'92, '96/'97, 2001/2002, '06/'07, '11/'12, '16/'17. Call 701-751-6177 ext. 212 or visit our website: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org.

Plan now to join us for the ILLINOIS CONFERENCE PRAYER RETREAT at Camp Akita, Oct. 1–3. Our guest speakers will be Jim and Ingrid Moon. This year's theme is "Ebenezer, A Missional Prayer Journey." Save the date; registration information will follow soon.

Retirement volunteering opportunities are available at the HISTORIC ADVENTIST VILLAGE in Battle Creek. We're looking to add volunteer power to assist in conducting tours, housekeeping, building repair, gift shop sales, etc. Contact Village director Don Scherencel at adventistvillage@tds.net or call 269-965-3000.

Indiana Academy Annual Golf Classic is October 8, 2021. To register online, go to iagolfclassic@gmail.com

Indiana Academy Homecoming Weekend will be an in-person event this year — October 8 & 9, 2021. Streaming will also be available for those unable to come to campus. For additional details and upcoming information, please visit the Indiana Academy facebook page.

SEPTEMBER

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Sept. 23–26: *Alumni Homecoming Weekend*

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER EVENTS

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit howard.andrews.edu.

Sept. 11, 8:30 p.m.: *Heritage Singers*

Sept. 19, 7 p.m.: *Jordan Feliz*

Sept. 25, 8 p.m.: *Alumni Gala Concert*

ILLINOIS

Sept. 3–5: *Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Akita*

Oct. 1–3: *Prayer Retreat, Camp Akita*

INDIANA

Sept. 3–6: *Hispanic Camp Meeting, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 10–12: *Adventurer Family Weekend, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 17–19: *Pathfinder Camporee, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 24–26: *Brown County Blowout, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 26: *Indiana Conference Constituency Session, Cicero Church*

Oct. 1–3: *Pathfinder Backpack Trip, Shades State Park, West Road*

LAKE REGION

Sept. 3–6: *Ministerio Multilingue Hispano, Campestre Hispano, Camp Wagner*

MICHIGAN

Sept. 2–6: *Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola*

Sept. 9–12: *Rest & Renew Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Sept. 10–12: *Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Au Sable*

Sept. 12–16: *Golden Years Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Sept. 24–26: *Family First, Camp Au Sable*

Oct. 1–3: *Public Campus Ministry Retreat, Camp Sagola*

WISCONSIN

Sept. 11: *El Centinela Day, local churches*

Sept. 24–26: *Hispanic Couples Retreat, Milwaukee*

LAKE UNION

Oct. 2: *Lake Union Women's Retreat, virtual*

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

- Sept. 4** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 11** World Budget (GC)
- Sept. 18** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 25** Local Church Advance

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL DAYS

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH

– HEALTH

- Sept. 1–30** Hispanic Heritage Month
- Sept. 4** Men’s Ministries Prayer Sabbath
- Sept. 5–11** Nurture Periodicals (*Adventist Review, Guide, Primary Treasure, Little Friend*)
- Sept. 5–11** Family Togetherness Week
- Sept. 5–11** Youth Week of Prayer
- Sept. 11** Super Youth Day Sabbath
- Sept. 11** Family Togetherness Sabbath
- Sept. 18** Grandparents Sabbath
- Sept. 18** Made to Move Day
- Sept. 19–25** Made to Move Week
- Sept. 25** Deaf Ministries Awareness Sabbath



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>.

SERVICES

NEW/USED Adventist Books — TEACH Services helps authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit www.LNFBOOKS.com for used books, and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases.

ADVENTIST TOURS 2022 — Israel in Jesus’ Steps, March 9–17 and June 12–21 (optional Jordan/Egypt); New Testament Alive/7 Churches, June 2–12; African Safari and Service, May 24–31; Germany-Austria: Luther to WWII, June 22–July 1 (includes Oberammergau Passion Play); Thailand, July 27–Aug. 7. All tours are Adventist-led with excellent rates and beautiful experiences for all ages. \$1750+/person. For full details, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or [facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours), or call 423-298-2169. “The best trip I’ve ever had! Nothing comes close.” “Fabulous!” “The Bible comes alive.” “An awesome experience!”

REAL ESTATE

COLLEGEDALE GUESTHOUSE — 1½-bedroom fully equipped condo w/kitchen and laundry; no steps; huge deck; secluded woodland setting. “Absolutely delightful,” say guests. “Very clean.” \$80/night for two (2 night minimum). Jolena King, 423-716-1298. See pictures at www.rogerkingrental.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

NEW BOOK — Ever wondered what day God wants us to worship on or if He really cares? *The Lost Thread of God’s Love*, by Phyllis Gruesbeck, traces the Sabbath’s history from Creation to the New Earth. Great for ministry and new members. Available now at <https://1ref.us/9456891>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:14	8:02	7:50	7:37
Chicago, Ill.	7:19	7:07	6:55	6:42
Detroit, Mich.	8:01	7:49	7:37	7:24
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:11	8:00	7:48	7:37
La Crosse, Wis.	7:35	7:23	7:10	6:57
Lansing, Mich.	8:08	7:55	7:43	7:30
Madison, Wis.	7:27	7:15	7:02	6:49
Springfield, Ill.	7:25	7:14	7:02	6:51

Believe and You Will Receive

It was the final spring Passover of Jesus' earthly life. In fact, it was the final week of Jesus' life.



▲ Rob Bernardo

On Sunday, Jesus was escorted into Jerusalem on a donkey, thus fulfilling the prophecy that He was indeed the Shepherd/King spoken of by the prophet Zechariah. This point was not lost on the crowd as they spread cloaks and palm branches along His path and some shouted, *Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord*, while others responded, *Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest* (Mark 11:9, 10).

Instead of being crowned as King as some of the crowd wished, Jesus withdrew to Bethany. The next day, Jesus came upon a barren fig tree that should have had fruit on it and declared that, *May no one ever eat from your fruit again*. Following this, He arrived back at Jerusalem and cleansed the temple. The *next morning* (Mark 11:20) the disciples saw that what Jesus had said about the fig tree was quickly and emphatically fulfilled. As the disciples walked by, they marveled that it had already withered away.

According to the powerful Word of their Lord, the fig tree which previously had the outward appearance of life, was seen for what it really was. Jesus spoke and *it was*. The fig tree was a representation of the Jewish nation at that time. The temple worship looked alive, but it was actually only dead forms and rituals. Then, in verse 22 through 24, Jesus makes this amazing promise:

Have the faith of God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes the thing will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask for when you pray, believe that you receive them and you will have them.

Notice three elements here to the prayer of faith.

1) Be specific (say to this mountain).

2) Don't doubt. The word is *dia-krino* in the Greek, meaning to judge thoroughly. Here the meaning is to judge whether God is able to perform what you are asking or not.

3) Believe that you have received. That is, be as sure of having the thing asked for as if you already had it.

A few years ago, one of my members from Kenya and I had been praying at various times for her children to receive their visas to enter the United States. On one occasion, I was sure that I heard her say that the children had received the visas.

I was truly rejoicing and praising the Lord in prayer. I was thanking God that they had their visas and looking forward to their arrival. I fully believed that they had their visas, because their mother had told me that it was so. After prayer, she informed me that the children did not have their visas yet, but that we were just continuing to pray that they would receive them. Nevertheless, I had prayed with specificity; I knew that the Lord was able to perform what we were asking, and I was sure that it was already so. Well, that very week the children received their visas!

What does God want you to believe for today? If it is truly according to His will, you can KNOW that it is yours, in His time. ■

Rob Bernardo, pastor of the Battle Creek Tabernacle

Stewards of Our Relationships

I walk in the mornings with the nicest couple. Dave and Judy arrive at my mailbox at 5:30, and we engage in non-stop chatter for the next 45 minutes.

Last week I asked Dave how his recent business trip had gone, and he responded by asking me if I wanted the detailed version or a quick recap. Because I love his stories, I chose the detailed version.

Given the go-ahead, Dave launched a chronological description of his trip. As he described each interaction, I was stuck by how much of a “people person” he is. Rather than talk about the work he went to accomplish, Dave delightedly shared stories about all of the people with whom he had conversations or was able to help during his trip.

I enviously pondered how natural it is for Dave to have experiences like these. I am not an extrovert like he is. When someone takes their seat next to me on a plane, I smile and greet them but quickly pull out a book in hopes of avoiding a cross-continental conversation. Do not get me wrong. I like people, but I have an equal regard for my space and my to-do list. Plus, I hate the idea of anyone thinking I am a busybody! I figure God made me this way, and He doesn't expect me to strike up a conversation with every person that crosses my path.

As I contentedly considered this, however, the Lord reminded me of my list. It is a list I created of all the people who are important to me. It begins with the names of my husband and kids, and includes family, dear friends, favorite colleagues and even people I don't often see or interact with but still consider special. The list identifies “my people,” my circle of influence, the relationships I don't ever want to lose. I had created the list just for fun with a do-good thought that maybe I would pray for them. I had since forgotten the list.

Now God was asking me how well I am stewarding the special relationships He has placed in my life. Could I name the current challenge each person on my list is struggling with? Did I know what milestones are coming up for each of them? Where are they spiritually, and do I even care? How often do I reach out to them? Or do I assume they will always be a “text away” at a more convenient time? His questions made me think.

I believe the Bible story of Mary and Martha has two messages. The obvious and primary one is that we are to sit daily at the feet of Jesus. The secondary lesson from that story, however, is that we are also to “sit” regularly with the people God has placed in our life. We are to take time to listen to them, encourage them, grieve and celebrate with them. Equally important to being good stewards of our time, talent and treasure is being a great steward of our relationships. God has curated a special group of people for each one of us and has designed a lifetime of ways we can bless them. ■

Tari Popp is the director of Planned Giving & Trust Services at Andrews University. She and her husband live in Berrien Springs.



▲ Tari Popp



A Conscious Conclusion

By Steven Injety

I WAS BORN IN ROOM NUMBER 22, PUNE ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, INDIA. Before I could walk, I was ready to fly — as one month later I boarded a flight with my mother and sister to join my father at Solusi University, Zimbabwe, where my parents worked as professors. In Zimbabwe, I learned how to read, write and talk. There was a strong spiritual atmosphere in Solusi that encouraged me to seek God. The environment there molded me to have a deep understanding of the communal nature of God’s family. I truly believe the spiritual atmosphere at Solusi was a glimpse of heaven.

After moving from Zimbabwe in 2008, I became a peculiar sight. I was an Indian boy with a Zimbabwean accent in South Africa. We lived at Helderberg College, Cape Town, where I attended primary school and high school. The singing there was beautiful and unrivaled. Unfortunately, it was not contagious, as I soon found out in my attempt to be a part of the school choir. The unity in praise of God brought the church together. I can only imagine the singing and praise in South Africa to also be a glimpse of heaven.

After finishing high school, I came to Andrews University to pursue a Data Science degree with a Public Health and Finance minor. Andrews University is such a culturally vibrant and diverse place that I could almost feel my worldview expanding. It is a privilege to be in an Adventist institution with Adventists from all over the world. After all, we are all one under God. I can only imagine heaven to have even more cultures, worldviews and people. In the midst of my degree, my parents were called

to serve at the Adventist University of Africa in Kenya. I was able to visit the beautiful campus this summer break.

While at Andrews, I have been fortunate to take classes from professors who exhibited values and teachings that encouraged me to integrate faith in my career. As social media has become an integral part of our society, it has socially engineered us to be, at times, morally ambiguous or lukewarm. The professors have shown me the importance of being ethical and empathetic in my career.

James 1:27 says, *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world* (NKJV). Perhaps the pictures of pleasure and prosperity that social media shows us may tempt us at times. It is necessary to realize that our purpose can be fulfilled if we orient our mindset to a Christ-like service of others.

As a data scientist, it may be easy to proverbially “sell my soul” to Wall Street in pursuit of glory and gold. However, I have come to the conscious conclusion that the skill set I have gained from Andrews University should be used to glorify God and His mission, whether it be through using data science in healthcare, social welfare, community development or furthering the ministry. Wherever God may lead me, I shall serve Him. ■

WHEREVER
GOD MAY
LEAD ME,
I SHALL
SERVE HIM.

► Steven Injety



Steven Injety, Data Science major, Andrews University

Steven received a \$100 scholarship for this article. If you’re a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: herald@lakeunion.org.

Learning to Trust

By Gillian Panigot



Ryan Thomas

▲ Jonika Scott

AS AN ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

FRESHMAN, Jonika Scott received exciting news — Camp Au Sable directors were on campus to recruit summer staff.

Jonika had visited Au Sable previously and had friends who worked there. “They always came home with grand stories,” says Jonika. “Each story reflected roles of leadership, spiritual growth and countless adventures, and I felt destined to share their experience.”

She quickly rearranged her schedule for a job interview. She says, “I didn’t know specifically what they were looking for in a candidate, so I prayed and let God do the rest.”

Jonika soon received a call to work in the Camp Au Sable kitchen. She gladly accepted but, as time drew closer, she felt anxious. Was camp where she was supposed to be? Through the encouragement of her family and friends, Jonika felt God’s reassurance in her job choice and was pleased to work with staff toward a common goal: being stewards of Christ by ministering to campers and each other.

In 2019, Jonika applied again to work at Camp Au Sable. This time she felt called to try something new, so she checked the box to work as an assistant counselor along with arts and crafts.

When the camp director came to Andrews, Jonika was offered work as a counselor and at High Adventure. “This was both exciting and terrifying!” says Jonika. “I didn’t have much climbing experience and I was afraid of heights.” Jonika knew her fears could be overcome by turning them over to God, and prayed earnestly before returning to camp.

Once there, Jonika needed to become a certified high ropes instructor for her new role. She was intimidated but says, “I had to believe in the plans God had for me that summer. . . . It was crucial to pass the written test and to demonstrate my skills on the course, not just for myself but to ensure I would keep my future campers safe on the climbing wall and high ropes course.”

Jonika prayed hard and studied hard and, by God’s grace and with the help of her instructor, passed her exam.

Looking back, Jonika is impressed with the idea that God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called (see 1 Corinthians 1:27–29). “Each time I followed God’s leading and stepped through the doors He opened, God equipped me with the encouragement and skills I needed,” she says.

It’s a lesson that Jonika, now a senior pursuing her graduate degree in Speech-Language Pathology, will apply going forward. She says, “I know I can trust God to guide me where He would have me serve.” ■

Gillian Panigot, Communication manager and FOCUS editor, University Communication, Andrews University

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