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# HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2022

*World Changers Made Here.*

# ANDREWS UNIVERSITY



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We often talk about answering the call, but we seldom think about the price we will pay once we do. Will it be worth it?

It was 2015 when my husband and I decided to quit our jobs and move to Michigan to pursue my dream of furthering my education at Andrews University and serving the church in Communication. We didn't have any family or friends in Berrien Springs. There was no promise of a job or a place for us to stay. The only thing we had was a firm conviction. We began the process. We had two young children and two weeks to pack all our belongings.

In the meantime, my husband decided that we should find a way to earn fast cash so that it could alleviate moving expenses. He proposed that I bake banana bread, and he'd take it door to door to sell. Since we both understand colporteur, Michael decided that he'd apply the same concept to selling bread: prayer in between houses while power walking from door to door. I remember feeling very unsure. I tried to keep a cheerful demeanor while Michael was out selling. Pacing back and forth in our apartment, I waited for him to return. Finally, after three hours, I heard him walk through the door with the basket still in his hands.

"How did it go?" I softly asked as he quietly looked at me. He shrugged, and I immediately hugged him and whispered, "It's okay. . . . You tried."

He chuckled, "Honey, can't you see? The basket is empty!!! I sold every single bread!"

I couldn't believe my eyes. My husband poured the donations onto the table. Within three hours and 20 loaves of bread to sell, Michael earned nearly \$150. This amount became the average gained every day for the next two weeks.

As I reflect on our journey, I sit in awe of God's amazing grace. God is the reason for our success. Today, I serve as the assistant Communication director here at the Lake Union Conference, a position I had only dreamed of before leaving the comfort of my home in Los Angeles for Berrien Springs, whereas Michael is launching Emmanuel Film Studios, a biblical feature film studio.

So, what does it look like to answer God's call? It's scary and sometimes uncertain, but it is the most rewarding thing you will ever do. So, perhaps, if there is something on your heart for which you have been praying, I highly encourage you to step out in faith and see what the Lord has in store for you. ■

*Felicia*

Felicia Tonga

Assistant Communication director, Lake Union Conference

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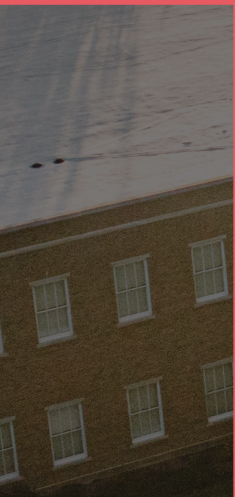
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## Unexpected Inspirations

*By Marcel Mattox and Kamila Oster*

**ON THE COVER:** Marcel Mattox and Kamila Oster at the Andrews University entrance

**COVER PHOTO:** Peter Tumangday

**ON THIS PAGE:** Buller Hall, Andrews University

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## Empowerment Through Connection

*By Isabella Koh*



# We Hold the Future in Our Hands



▲ Andrea Luxton

One repeated biblical theme we may not discuss often, or even recognize, is that of succession planning! The Bible doesn't use those words, of course, but the thread runs throughout the Old and New Testaments and provides a critical framework for understanding God's purpose for ensuring the future of His church.

We see it in those often-ignored biblical genealogies, where responsibility and fulfillment of prophecy is seen through generational lines. We see it when God speaks to Elijah on the Mount of Horeb. Elijah sees himself as the only one true follower left, but God tells him he is wrong and that God has chosen many followers. Elijah is sent to find his successor: Elisha. We see it when, against all that is expected from a human perspective, God chooses David to be anointed as Saul's successor. We see it in the way Jesus works tirelessly to prepare His disciples to lead the early church. No, they can't replace Him, but they are being set up to be the leaders of the beginnings of the Christian church. And we could go on.

Of course, the path of succession planning in the Bible, just as today, does not always go smoothly. God had plans for Jacob, but parental favoritism confused the situation and caused fraternal rivalry. David may have been chosen to replace Saul, but Saul had other plans. The disciples, chosen as they were, with the best Teacher there could be, made significant mistakes (jealousy, denials, in-fighting) before launching into their roles. I suppose, in effect, that means those who lived in Bible times were not much different than us.

I am constantly humbled and amazed by both younger colleagues and students at Andrews University and their talent, commitment to service and faith, and desire to engage in the church. That is what I meant

when I called this editorial, “We Hold the Future in Our Hands.” I did not mean we are going to decide the future. I meant that when at Andrews University we interface with up to 5,000 students annually, we are literally holding the future of the church, of our communities, of the world in our hands. These are the individuals that will decide that future. These are the men and women, World Changers, who will make decisions about even those things most precious to those of us who are a little grayer. When I write these words, I do not write them with fear and misgiving but with a smile on my face. Why? Because I see every day the passion and engagement of the younger generations, and I know God has a great future planned for all of us with these future leaders on the front lines.

Many years ago, a mentor of mine talked about his responsibility to younger colleagues in this way. He said it was like holding a butterfly in your hand. Hold it too tightly and it crushes the life out of it. But if you recognize the butterfly’s beauty and its potential and let it fly, it will bring beauty to many. I like that analogy.

As you read the articles coming from Andrews University in this issue of the *Lake Union Herald*, you will see amazing commitment, talent and vision. We could multiply these stories twentyfold and still not be close to sharing everything with you. How do I, how do we as Andrews University, how do we as the wider church family allow God to work in our midst and with our support set up the positive future for our church? How do we hold the butterfly in our hand and not crush it, but set it free to fly?

### **I would like to suggest a few ideas.**

**Humility.** It is easy for those of us in positions of authority (whether in an institution, the organized Church or a local church) to make the mistaken assumption



▲ Students pose in the newly refurbished Andrews Botanical Conservatory on the roof of the Science Complex.

that the success we may see around us is premised on us through the calling God has given us. New ideas can make us fearful. Individuals from different backgrounds and experiences come into the frame, and we unconsciously push them to the fringes. God calls us all in different ways, but I believe He calls us all to humility. I believe humility recognizes the power of God and the potential for the future in those around us.

**Trust.** I have no doubt that with all our foibles and humanity, Andrews University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church would be nothing if not for the reality that God’s eye is on us. He does not let us out of His sight. He trusted us with the sacred responsibility to care for our University, our Church, our world. He asks us to join Him in having that same trust for those who come after us.

**Patience.** Jesus is my example here. Just look at the mistakes the disciples made and Jesus’ willingness to still see the future of His church in them. Even when their mistakes resulted in personal hurt to Jesus,

He did not let them go. Patience, guidance, patience, guidance.

**Faith.** And, finally, but most essentially, we must have faith that God’s purposes will be fulfilled on this earth. God chose us to do what we do. That may amaze us; it does me. But God does not choose wrongly. We may not understand His choices, may even disagree, may be certain that this person, surely, is not going to be my future, the future of my church. But amazingly, yes, maybe he or she is.

André, Joseph, Kamila, Marcel, Caryn, Delilah, Tyler and so many more: these are the individuals of the future. When we hold them, we hold the future in our hands. That is a sacred trust. A trust God has given us to nurture, to love, to guide, to encourage, to dignify, to value and to celebrate all those who He has chosen and will choose.

World Changers are in our hands. What an amazing gift. ■

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*Andrea Luxton, president, Andrews University*

# Talking to Children about Violence

When I heard about the Uvalde elementary school shooting last May, I was in the car with my husband and children—two ten-year-olds, two fourth-graders—just like the children who had been murdered.



▲ Melissa Ponce-Rodas

My heart sank, my chest felt heavy; as the tears were forming, I quickly changed the radio station. I could not listen to more details. My heart could not hold the pain. How did you respond? While I turned off the news and hugged my kids tight, I allowed the tears to come, and the emotions to be felt, because my body and brain needed to process what had happened.

Unfortunately, over the years, we've seen our society surrounded by violence and death. I've been fortunate to learn what I need to do to take care of myself, how to process the information in pieces, so that my mental health does not suffer too much. First, I remember how fearfully and wonderfully made I am, in the image of my loving Creator, so I understand that my body and brain were not intended to experience the violence and death that sin has brought. Then, I've learned ways to work through my reactions to these events, so that I can stay healthy—mentally and physically.

Here, I will reference several pieces that have been written in response to violence and tragedies so you, too, can find the tools to help you and your family process what is going on. Just remember, not every tip works for everyone—try them and see what works for you and your family. Your first step is to take care of yourself, as discussed in this school shooting resource (<https://bit.ly/3zHpyJf>). And, if your emotions or worry or grief are greater than you can process alone, look for help from a counselor, a social worker, a clergy or a doctor. We are all trained to help you find

the resources that work best for you.

For both adults and kids, almost every resource, including the National Association of School Psychologists (<https://bit.ly/3BZPpyV>), will start with limiting exposure to information. Many suggest that you choose to read information over watching it reported. Why? Because we want to limit how many senses are impacted when getting this difficult information. It can be less traumatic to only read about something, than to watch it.

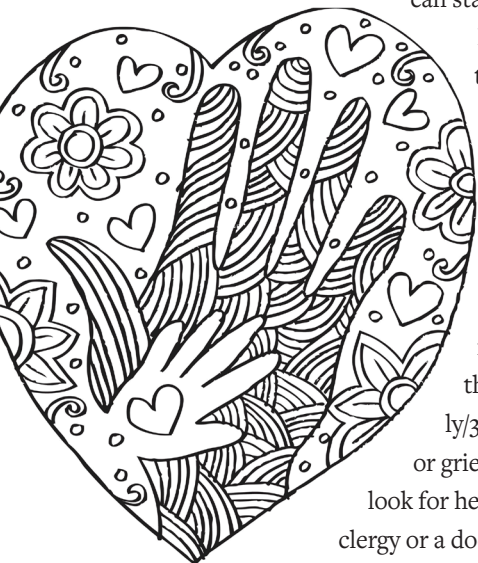
You want to ask what kids have heard so far, to start a dialogue and meet them where they are at. An NPR article (<https://n.pr/3QczKko>) summarizes this approach from a media psychologist, which allows kids to tell you what they know, and creates a safe space for them to ask questions.

Maintaining a routine can also be helpful, as you process this information. It gives kids some stability and control. But it is also okay to make changes as needs arise, both for you and your family. Do what seems best for you and ask for help if you need it.

Lastly, don't forget that this is hard. We weren't designed for this. But our God has made ways for us to work through the violence and death that sin has brought. With prayer and supplication, we can surrender our pain to God, and care for ourselves as we work to be lightbearers in the midst of this tragedy. My favorite quote in times like these is from Mr. Rogers—"look for the helpers." And if we are called, may we also *be* them—agents of change for a better world. ■

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*Melissa Ponce-Rodas is assistant professor of Psychology and vice-chair, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Andrews University.*



# What Happens in Fifteen Minutes

When you want to learn a new skill or become proficient at something you need to practice. An integral part of practice is spending time doing whatever it is you want to learn or perfect.

It is no different with relationships. A relationship in which you do not invest time into will languish and perish eventually, including your relationship with God.

As I tell my clients, if you want to build, deepen, strengthen and nourish your relationship, you must invest time in that relationship. Whether that relationship is with God, your romantic partner, your children or your parents, time is important in order for relationships to prosper and grow stronger. It is difficult to convince people you love them if you never have time for them.

How much time are we talking here? We are all busy. We are all stressed. None of us have as much time as we'd like to have. The amount of quality time needed to make a difference just might surprise you! Studies are showing that 15 minutes per day can result in positive outcomes in relationships. Fifteen minutes just happens to be 1 percent of your day! Can you afford to invest 1 percent of your day into building and growing your relationships?

The content of the 1 percent of your day you are investing in your relationship is not as important as the time. In other words, you don't have to do something fancy that costs a lot of money. What I recommend is to ask the person you are spending time with what they want to do during their 15 minutes. Yes, even children. Ask them what they want to do with you. If your five-year-old wants to get down on the floor and play with toy cars, do it! You will be glad you did. If your romantic partner wants to do dishes together, do it! You will be glad you did. Hopefully this 15-minute

activity is something during which you can have a conversation with this person while engaging in the activity. Watching a movie together is not ideal because it is difficult to have a meaningful conversation while watching a movie.

Sometimes people object to this 15-minute homework because they think it's artificial and believe wanting to spend time together should come naturally. That's true but, if it's not being done, this scheduled 15 minutes will be better than nothing and it is a good way to get in the habit of spending quality time together. This one simple technique can solve many relationship problems. I have seen it work! ■



▲ Brad Hinman

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*It is important to note that this article is not intended to take the place of medical advice or to diminish the effects of mental or personality disorders.*

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



# Identifying with Imperfect Pioneers

**INTRODUCTION:** Last month we published the final chapter of George Knight's book, *Lest We Forget*. We now introduce a new column brought to you by the Center for Adventist Research. The name of the column, HIStory, is emblematic of the fact that we firmly believe that the story of the Adventist denomination and its people is a segment of the everlasting gospel. So our history is included in His story of redemption and love. —Editor

At my first Bible week in 1988, the pastor asked for the kids' favorite subject in school.



▲ Denis Kaiser

Surprisingly, most other kids looked at me in seeming shock and disapproval when I blurted out, “History.” Back then, I did not realize that many people hate history because in school they were required to memorize names, dates, places, events, in other words “data,” without any obvious meaning. I could not relate because in my view, history was filled with stories. In history, I found many “friends,” people like me with whom I could relate and identify. In many ways, people are actually fascinated by the past, especially their own past and that of their families, when they discover meaning in it.

Besides talking about the successes of the heroes of faith, the Bible does not hide their failures and weaknesses. A few years ago, a student explained that Ellen G. White's letters, diaries and manuscripts are especially attractive to Millennials because those documents give us a glimpse of her person and experience. By writing of her shortcomings and weaknesses, she made herself vulnerable and, thus, becomes authentic. Since we go through similar struggles and sense similar shortcomings, we can relate to her.

As a generation that yearns for authenticity, we are more willing to listen to those who are real and authentic in their brokenness than those who give the appearance of perfection and infallibility. The same applies to other early Adventists when we discover more about the complexity of their lives. Learning not just

about the great acts of early Adventist leaders but also about the experiences of ordinary church members like you and I may, in fact, strengthen our identity and commitment, arouse our intellect, and touch our emotions. They are not removed from our daily experience because, in their brokenness, they all found comfort, hope and help in Jesus.

About 130 years ago, Ellen White penned the words, “In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, ‘Praise God!’ As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment and with confidence in Christ our Leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (Lt 32, 1892). Interestingly, she made those remarks in the context of the thought that we should follow the example of those before us in trusting Jesus' leadership and in sharing the message with people in need of salvation.

While in Adventist history, we encounter people like us, faulty, fragile and frail, we may be inspired by their sacrifice and commitment. Their experience may encourage us and comfort us because it is an astounding example of God's amazing grace that is still available to us today. ■

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*Denis Kaiser is an associate professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and new editor of the Adventist Pioneer Series.*



# Origins of Andrews University

The direct origins of this first Adventist institution of higher learning, its name and current location, are known probably only to some Adventist veterans and history buffs.

Andrews University's roots are commonly known to go back to Emmanuel Missionary College (EMC, 1901–1960) and Battle Creek College (1874–1901). By the 1950s, students from all over the world flocked to American universities, yet the Adventist church, with its global presence, had no institution to meet that trend. Young people were faced with increasing demands for higher professional education and the Church's colleges and secondary schools needed teachers with graduate degrees. An Adventist university would not only meet those needs but also permit students to learn in a positive Christian environment, acquaint them with the best minds of the Church, and aid them in dealing with the unique problems arising in those years.

So, in July 1955, the General Conference Committee appointed a commission to develop a plan for graduate studies. The facilities of the Theological Seminary (next to the General Conference and the publishing house) were already extremely crowded; when a School of Graduate Studies was attached to it the following year, the situation worsened. In October 1956, the commission recommended a merger of the two schools, known as Potomac University and, only a mile away, Washington Missionary College (WMC), as an undergraduate division, to establish a full-scale university.

The crowded facilities, the cramped conditions (WMC shared a campus with Washington Sanitarium and Hospital), and the fast-growing urban environment made moving out of that environment and its facilities a necessity. Various places were considered but locating the new institution in Berrien Springs, Michigan, appeared advantageous for various reasons.

Ellen G. White had stressed the benefits of establishing the Church's educational institutions in rural rather than urban areas, and had criticized a crowding of institutions in one location. In late October 1958, EMC offered forty acres for the new university and a "complete integration" of Potomac University with EMC. At the General Conference's Autumn Council, almost two-thirds of the delegates received the offer favorably by voting for the move to Berrien Springs.

The move to Michigan had made the name Potomac University irrelevant yet finding a new name for the University was not an easy task. Various names floated around reminiscent of its location (Lake Central, Lake Arbor or Lake Michigan), Adventist history (Pioneer Memorial, Griggs or Farnsworth), or its former name (Emmanuel University). On April 4 and 6, 1960, the Potomac University board of trustees and the General Conference Executive Committee respectively voted to call it Andrews University, naming the institution after John Nevins Andrews, a pastor-scholar and the Church's first official American-born foreign missionary. Andrews' life and work exemplify a deep commitment to the mission, still shared by the University named after him, to seek knowledge, affirm faith, and change the world.<sup>1</sup> ■

▼ This was the first administration building at Emmanuel Missionary College that was built in 1903 at a cost of \$8,000 for lumber. It was converted to a dormitory in 1943–1944 after a new administration building had been completed and continued in use until it was torn down in 1953.

1. For more information, see Emmett K. Vande Vere, *The Wisdom Seekers: The Intriguing Story of the Men and Women Who Made the First Institution for Higher Learning Among Seventh-day Adventists* (Nashville, TN: Southern Pub. Assn., 1972), 243–251.

Denis Kaiser is an associate professor of Church History at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

Courtesy Center for Adventist Research



# Ministry and Mission

By Isabella Koh

**IN 2019, ANDRÉ RODRIGUES ARRIVED IN THE PHILIPPINES EXPECTING ONLY TO COMPLETE A SINGLE TERM OF MISSION WORK BEFORE RETURNING TO HIS THEOLOGY STUDIES IN BRAZIL.** Instead, he fostered a new life passion for ministry and mission.

In the Philippines, André was tasked with teaching Bible and physical education, while simultaneously

learning English and Palawan. “[It] was hard for me to communicate, but in P.E. it’s pretty easy for you to get involved or to connect,” he conveys. Over time, he developed strong relationships with the people and resolved to return and continue his work.

A year later, he did just that. His roles expanded to include building, storytelling and transportation. One of the most memorable moments came when he acted

Courtesy André Rodrigues

as a human ambulance for a sick woman, hiking nearly 30 hours to bring her from her home in the mountains to a hospital. André spent almost a month with the woman and her husband, and he was able to share the gospel as a comfort to the couple, giving them hope in Jesus' second coming. Although the wife passed away, the husband kept God's message close. André later learned that the widower had shared André's stories with other community members, praying for them in God's name. "That was a blessing," André says, "for them and for me."

His time in the Philippines led André to pursue a Master of Divinity at Andrews University in order to maintain his English proficiency while staying within reach of home. He notes, "I can find people from all over the world. The missionary spirit I can see here at Andrews really caught my attention."

At Andrews, André utilizes a previous degree in physical education for a job as a personal trainer at the Andraesen Center for Wellness. In addition to teaching classes and providing training, he strives to be a friendly face. He explains, "Sometimes you can help people by talking to them, or just listening to them. I consider my job in the Wellness Center to be part of my ministry."

André takes Romans 10:13–15 as a call to action, instilling in him a sense of urgency to share the gospel. He elaborates, "My main goal is to go back to the mission field. I came here, to Andrews, to get more knowledge, to gain more skills, to be more prepared to go back to the mission field as a pastor."

In April, André made a third, although short-term, trip to the Philippines. He plans to build teams for still more work in remote areas with the additional aim of sharing the gospel. Ultimately, he places his trust in the Lord, stating, "God will prepare you for this life and for the eternal life as well."

He encourages others on their own paths to service, too, affirming, "Start wherever you are right now. You have one huge mission field close to you." ■

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Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer

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“Start wherever  
you are right now.  
You have one  
huge mission field  
close to you.”



▲ André Rodrigues (back, center) taught at a school in the Philippines.

# Immovable Promises

By Joseph Burton

**MY NAME IS JOSEPH BURTON, AND I AM STUDYING THEOLOGY AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, HAVING JUST FINISHED MY FRESHMAN YEAR.**

Looking back on my childhood, I do not remember knowing much about the character of God. I grew up in a dysfunctional home characterized by family conflict and the presence of drugs and alcohol. I did know about the Sabbath and other Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, however, and I clung to what I knew. As an early teen, I clashed with various family members who tried to pressure me to do tasks on Sabbath or eat certain foods I considered unclean; I was told that Adventism was being “shoved down my throat.” During this time, I lived in an unstable position between relatives, and the Department of Human Services (DHS), recognizing the abusive situation, nearly placed me in foster care. I was told by the adults in my life that I was a “bad son,” that I was “ignorant,” and that nothing I had was due to me or belonged to me. From these experiences, I learned that living out one’s faith comes with a cross.

Following a cross-country move, I was able to attend an Adventist academy for a short period. I enjoyed my time there, interacting with dedicated teachers and being around other young people who loved God and wanted to know Him. However, others had a negative view of Adventist education, and I was removed from the academy. At this time, I did not know what to do. In my life, I had suffered from the poor choices of others and was continuing to suffer, being continually deprived of the opportunity to be a part of the church and develop faith-centered relationships. Through this series of hardships, the Bible brought me hope.

Alone the majority of the time, I began to read extensively in the Old Testament with the aid of the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. Subsequently, as I read the New Testament, I set my mind to memorize the book of 1 John. I loved the Johannine writings and, for some odd reason, felt compelled to memorize

1 John as if life depended on it. Until then, I had only memorized certain Psalms and isolated Old Testament passages, hence this was quite an undertaking. What followed was something like magic.

I memorized 1 John with little difficulty—afterward, other books with much greater rapidity. In a short period, I memorized all 13 chapters of Hebrews and all 22 chapters of Revelation. Books such as 2 Peter I memorized in a single day. I didn’t really have an elaborate method; somehow, I just retained everything as I read. Presently, I can recite 12 books of the Bible and am finishing memorizing Daniel and Hebrews a second time, now in German (*Der Brief an die Hebräer*).

Reading and memorizing Scripture are important to me for one simple reason. God is Truth and His Word is Truth. We often fail to grasp the thought—the reality—that the contours of the earth will sooner give way before one Word of Holy Writ fails. The promises of the Bible are true, *literatim*: *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son* (1 John 5:11 AV). In a world where tomorrow is uncertain, we can rest the anchor of our faith on the promises of the living God—they are immovable.

Although I finished high school in the public sphere with honors, I was determined to go to an Adventist university. I chose Andrews University because I saw that faith was taken seriously by the faculty here. Looking back on my virtual tour, I remember that the host faculty took the time to pray for me, an important experience for me coming from a secular school. I did very well in anatomy and physiology and chemistry in high school, and my teachers expected me to go into pre-med. However, medicine alone cannot nearly assuage the depth of human woe. I realized that the world’s most pressing need is for men and women of principle who will commit themselves to the work of God. I chose to pursue a theology degree here at Andrews University.

As a theology major, I have engaged in whatever ministry on campus has been presented to me, teaching



▲ Joseph Burton (far right) participated in a mission trip to Beirut, Lebanon, in spring 2022.

Courtesy Glenn Russell



Courtesy Joseph Burton

## Reading and memorizing Scripture are important to me for one simple reason. God is Truth and His Word is Truth.

Sabbath schools and participating in Scriptural Pursuit media ministry and the iCanvass club. During spring 2022, I had the chance to be a part of a mission trip to Beirut, Lebanon. Although I was unable to go on this trip financially, I believed it was imperative for me to go. The reason is simple. God organized His church for service—we have light; we must share it. All are called to give their all for God and engage in whatever opportunities for service that might present themselves. Does our faith reach beyond the pages of a book? Do we in truth believe the words of the Great Commission, appropriating them to our lives? If so, it is imperative that we go.

There in Beirut, our team conducted a week of spiritual emphasis at Middle East University, giving sermons during the day and leading activity programs during the evening. We also conducted literature evangelism and met with Syrian refugee children at the Bourj Hammoud Adventist Learning Center. Most memorable to the mission experience were the sterling examples of faith that I encountered. As I met students from Iran, Iraq and other nations—people who had made considerable sacrifices for their Adventist beliefs, I was reminded that, although they might be few, God still has His faithful ones who are willing to give up all in order to follow Him. It also was encouraging to hear

others tell me that I helped to inspire them, following my recitation of the final chapters of Revelation, those on the New Jerusalem, at our last Sabbath vespers there.

In the future I plan to do more mission work, both here at Andrews and professionally. There are many places in God’s last-day work that He counts on us to fill. Post-graduation, it is my intention to attend the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and then work in whatever avenue God calls me to—wherever there is the greatest need and the least desire to go.

Through the difficulties in my life, I have seen God working. As much as godly friends and support are a blessing, it is pivotal for the individual to develop a personal relationship with God. One must actively choose their identity as a child of God, establishing the perimeters of their own faith. This is what my life circumstances have led me to reach out for. Then, as we make the choice to follow God, He will lead us and make His character known—He will. As the old hymn goes: *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* (Who will but let the good Lord guide). He is very near us, but are we willing to give Him the reins? ■

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Joseph Burton, theology major, Andrews University

▲ Joseph Burton is studying theology at Andrews University.



# UNEXPECTED INSPIRATIONS

Sometimes what inspires a person may come as a surprise—a conversation with a stranger, a turn down the wrong bike path, or a quiet moment in the middle of the woods.

Although insight may strike anyone, it takes courage and creativity to see an idea through to completion. The decision to act can be powerful and life-changing, not only for the person who carries it out but also for those they impact through doing so.

The following reflections give insight into just what inspires Andrews students Marcel Mattox and Kamila Oster—in their art, in their studies, in their plans for the future and, perhaps most importantly, as they interact with each person they encounter.

# HEROES AND HEART

by Marcel Mattox

I started my freshman year at Andrews University as a graphic design major—the major that brought me to Andrews in the first place. Like a lot of high school graduates I didn't know what I wanted to do, but I knew what I liked to do.

Growing up, I've gone through wanting to be an astronaut/astronomer, martial artist, marine biologist, artist, animator, poet and superhero. I had a love of illustration, art, animation and a curiosity toward film. A graphic design major required classes on several of these subjects, so I went for it. I ended up learning a lot about composition, design and color theory, and thoroughly enjoyed my time in the classes.

Art has had anything but a brief impact on my life. You know how certain things just make people's eyes light up? That's been art for me. I grew up reading and watching superheroes and the fantastical worlds in which they live. So eventually, naturally, I started wanting to create worlds of my own. Once I started seeing art in my cartoons, I started to see it everywhere—in the books I read, in the games I played and the environment surrounding me.

I'm a very optimistic, idealistic person, and this is reflected in a lot of my art. A lot of it is saturated with bright colors and inspirational ideas. In my art you'll find heroes, way too much starlight, and hopefully ideas that can inspire people as others have done for me. I like to draw with a lot of bright colors and love to emphasize lighting in my artwork as well. The medium I use is primarily digital, where a plethora of tools are at the tips of my fingers. People have responded positively to my art and what I hope is that they take inspiration from it. One of the coolest things is that art isn't confined to one medium. You can do so many different things in art. You



Andrews University CAST

◀ Marcel Mattox is a senior Graphic Design major at Andrews University.

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can leap and bound over countless mediums, and this freedom you can find in art is also why I'm proud to be an artist.

At the end of my sophomore year, I decided to switch tracks. Just like a painter trying out new mediums, I switched to a social work major, added a French minor and converted my graphic design major into a minor. The French minor was added because my mom's side of the family is French, as evidenced by my name, Marcel.

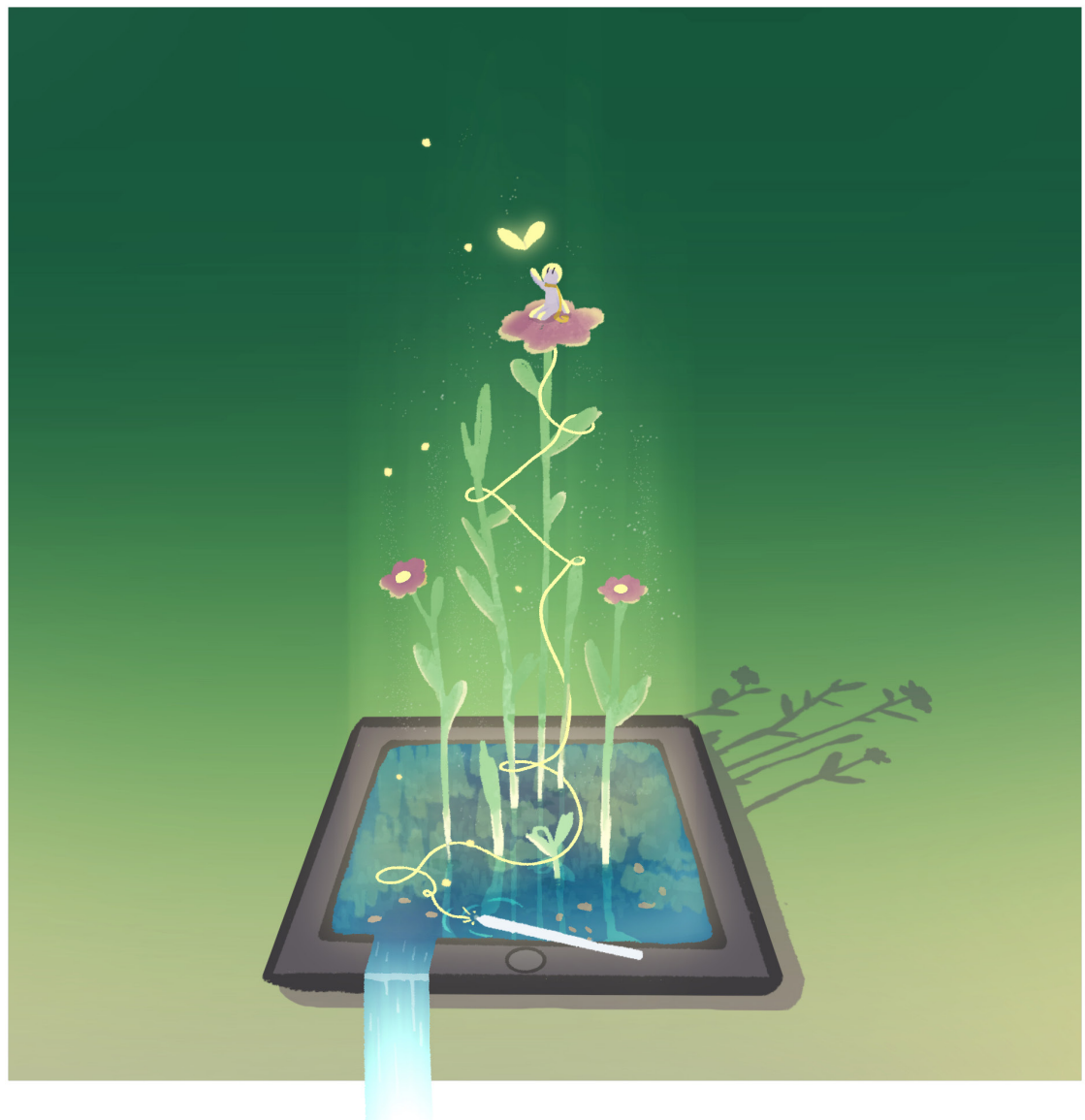
My logic for choosing social work was that I like helping people, and the art I do was never reliant on my

major. My desire to help people most likely originated from the superhero stories I grew up watching on screen. They always fought for the greater good, fighting for others who couldn't fight for themselves, and seeing them like that made me want to fight for people too. I think that's what led me to the new major.

My favorite part, besides the awesome people in the School of Social Work, is learning about how to help people, or more specifically how to help people help themselves. My studies so far have taught us about the methods and resources we can give our clients. As social workers, we believe in empowering people to be their own superheroes, and I love that.

My artistic interests still stick with me, and I hope to keep them with me as time goes on, in addition to finding new interests. I plan to be a therapist through my social work career and create art on the side. My creative pursuits keep my mind fresh and help me stay excited about life and hopefully help me pass on that excitement.

One could argue that an artist's hands are their most important asset. This is probably correct for obvious reasons, but I would say a close second and third are their eyes and their heart. The eyes because how you see the world and what you focus on will be what you create. And the heart because that's what inspires and helps you to continue creating. ■



► "Grown Art" was created by Marcel Mattox.

Artwork by Marcel Mattox



# NOSES AREN'T DOTS

by Kamila Jolie Oster

Growing up, whenever inspiration struck, I would rush over to the desk in my parents' office and raid their stack of printer paper. The next several hours I would be consumed with drawing pictures that correlated with the stories running rampant in my head. I would then meticulously tape each page together to form a picture book. Since I could not yet write, my mother would fill in the words as I explained the events taking place on each page.

One Friday afternoon, as I was working on a drawing for yet another one of my "books," my grandparents came to visit. My grandfather, a retired surgeon, was infamous for his witty and practical personality. The day they visited, I was working on a picture of our family. As I sat, finishing the last face, I noticed my grandfather peering over my shoulder looking at my drawing. Unfazed, I went back to work, adding the final touch—a dot in the center to represent a nose. "You know, noses don't really look like that," my grandfather suddenly remarked. I looked up at him confused, as he continued to gesture to the faces saying, "Noses aren't dots. Look at your nose; it's not a dot, and neither is mine. You should draw a nose that looks like a nose." He then walked away as I sat there, dumbfounded.

I guess it was something I had to have known. Noses are not dots. I mean, I saw my own face every day in the mirror and I didn't have a dot for a nose. Nevertheless, his remarks caused me to become obsessed with learning how to draw a realistic nose. I spent

Christian Prohaska



I GUESS IT WAS  
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KNOWN. NOSES  
ARE NOT DOTS.

◀ Kamila Oster is a junior English major with a Writing concentration and a Chemistry minor at Andrews University.

► *Kamila Oster's graphic novel for the class "Social Justice and the Graphic Novel" was also printed in SPECTRUM magazine.*

countless hours scrutinizing the faces of those around me; however, it seemed as though the more I looked, the more impossible the task became. How was I to learn how to draw a "real" nose, when everyone's nose—and face, for that matter—was so completely unique?

It's funny to me now just how clear this memory is. Yet, I do believe that it was moments such as this that shaped me into who I am today and influenced my choice in course of study. I am an English, pre-medicine major, and while I attribute my decision to study English to my love for writing—which no doubt stemmed from my early picture book-making days, I believe that art is the reason I want to pursue medicine.

My initial obsession with wanting to draw a perfect nose led me down a rabbit hole. Soon I was learning to draw eyes, then hands, then whole bodies and, eventually, became curious as to how they functioned. Specialties such as dermatology and plastic surgery are of particular interest to me, as they combine science with art and aesthetics. Nevertheless, I know that I will enjoy whichever specialty I end up choosing, as art can be found in all aspects of science, due in part to the great diversity imparted by the Creator.

I am grateful to attend a school that highlights this diversity. While attending Andrews University, one of the most diverse schools in the nation, I have been able to learn about many different cultures and people. My professors also have encouraged me to have diversity of thought and expression.

Last year, when I was taking my Social Justice and the Graphic Novel class, I was given the option of creating

a graphic novel about a social justice issue for my final project. Due to the nature of my major, I was used to writing long final papers or taking cumulative science exams, so when presented with this opportunity, I decided to go for it.

My graphic novel ended up being a story I had wanted to tell for a long time but didn't know how. However, through art I was able to explain my experience attending a primarily minority school that was later shut down. Adding drawings to my writing helped me to highlight certain details of the story in a way that would not have been possible had I just used my words. This experience made me realize that art can be just as impactful as science and English and that there is a place for content like the picture books I spent so many hours of my childhood creating.

As I'm sure you're wondering, I did eventually learn how to draw a "realistic" nose. After some time and practice, I graduated from drawing two-dimensional dot noses to three dimensional ones that represented the different people I observed around me. I also learned that I will never draw every nose in existence, and that is not necessarily a bad thing. If everyone and everything looked the same, then so would all of my drawings. Furthermore, I have come to better appreciate this diversity and actively look for settings in which the uniqueness of people, nature and ideas is prominent. As I prepare to graduate next year, I hope to take these lessons with me and to continue to look for opportunities to implement creativity in all I do. ■

I AM GRATEFUL TO ATTEND A SCHOOL THAT HIGHLIGHTS THIS DIVERSITY. WHILE ATTENDING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, ONE OF THE MOST DIVERSE SCHOOLS IN THE NATION, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEARN ABOUT MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES AND PEOPLE.

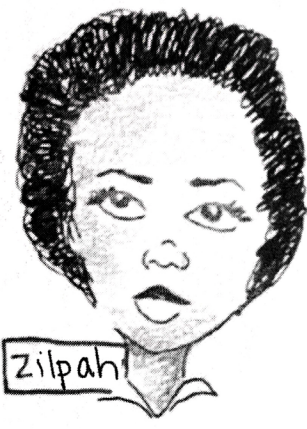
As soon as I walked into class, I noticed that the kids looked so old. Some even had mustaches!



Marisol



Juan



Zilpah

I thought I had walked into the wrong classroom, but sure enough Ruth and Isabele were right behind me, so this had to be 7th grade

The bell rang and we took our seats. Mrs. Howard began introducing herself and going over the class procedures.



Good Morning 7th grade! My name is Mrs. Howard. Welcome to the first day



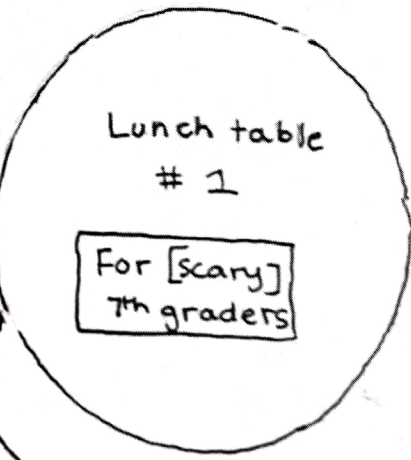
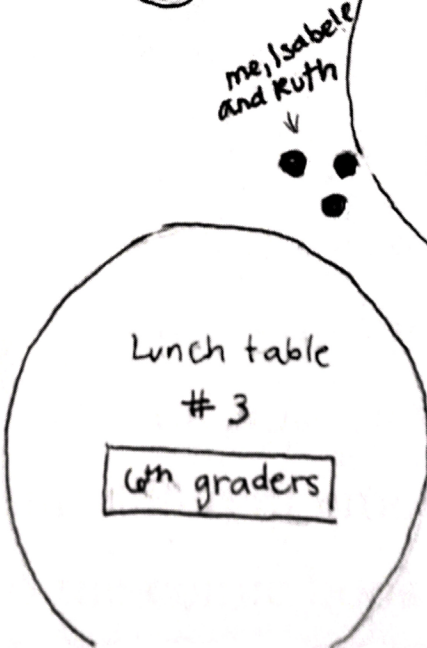
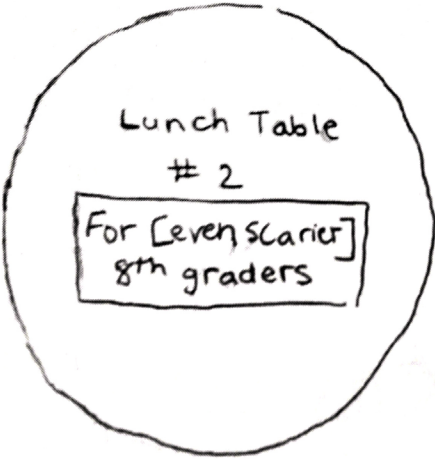
Mrs. Howard then began introducing the new students. Eventually she got to me.

And this is Kami Oster our new Principal, Ms. Rivera's daughter!

After homeroom, we had Bible and History with Mrs. Howard and then it was time for lunch.

At JNA, we had lunch in the gym which was also the cafeteria and auditorium.

### THE GYM CAFETERIA



► Caryn Cruz is a senior English major at Andrews University.



# EMPOWERMENT THROUGH *Connection*

When Caryn Cruz was young, she had no idea that a dedication to empowering other women would lead her to become the president of a thriving campus club at Andrews University and foster a lifelong career goal. “People see your passions within you,” she remarks, looking back on where she began. Her search to be a part of something bigger than herself brought her on a journey of growth, leadership and connection.

BY ISABELLA KOH

Darren Heslop

Darren Heslop



▲ Caryn Cruz (center) and other coordinators of "Take Back the Night" gathered at the Andrews globe for the start of the April 2 march.



▲ Caryn Cruz (second from left) participated in a vespers program on the steps of Pioneer Memorial Church.

"I'm an English major, and I'm minoring in political science," Caryn explains. Her love for writing and reading led her straight into the field of study, as did her eventual goal of becoming an attorney. She says, "It just made sense to do English. . . . I heard that English majors always do really well on the LSAT and they excel in areas of law because of what we study: dissecting material, analyzing, writing, reading."

With two parents who worked as pastors, she recognizes a distinct culture that flowed through her early years of life. Her family moved around for many years before settling in Arizona, where she attended Thunderbird Adventist Academy. Caryn recalls a close-knit household that was constantly full of people and visitors. She and her three sisters learned to always be ready for a spontaneous church performance, and she laughingly notes, "I'm so used to my dad, on the spot, asking his daughters to come up and sing for him, even if we didn't know what we were going to sing."

When she began thinking about college, Caryn had her heart set on going to La Sierra University. Her plans shifted, however, when her older sister, Carolina, decided to attend Andrews University. The more Caryn learned about Andrews from her sister, the more fascinated she became. Eventually, she decided that she would move to Berrien Springs for her own college years. "I really liked hearing about how Andrews was at the forefront of talking about social issues," Caryn notes.

"You can tell that they have hearts and they care about people. They care about community and serving. It convinced me enough to move out there."

As soon as she arrived on campus, Caryn immersed herself in many of the activities and clubs hosted by students, faculty and staff, including the J.N. Andrews Honors Program, the pre-law club and Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society. She has a deep appreciation for the leadership at Andrews and the culture they have fostered on campus. "I personally feel like Andrews does a good job at empowering its students through events and programs," she explains. One of her preferred ways to relax and form relationships with others has been through participation in worship teams. Although singing for chapels and vespers is an additional responsibility, she remarks, "It's always a nice break whenever I'm having a busy week. . . . for me, it's a nice time to relax and also feel connected to campus."

In 2019, at the beginning of Caryn's freshman year, a new student club was officially launched—the Women's Empowerment Association of Andrews University (WEAAU). Her sister, Carolina, had been one of the first club officers the prior year and, knowing Caryn's passion for the topic, looped her into the group. Caryn served as secretary that year, beginning a foundational relationship with the club that would last through her entire Andrews experience.

“I wish I could say I’ve always been pro-women’s empowerment,” Caryn admits thoughtfully. “Growing up, I just didn’t really know what that meant.” She remembers a time when a male friend asked her if she was a feminist and his relief when she instinctively shut him down. Like many others, she believed that the feminist movement was centered around an opposition to men. “I think it was just a few years after that that I started to understand more of what the feminist movement was,” she reflects.

Although Caryn’s personal journey with women’s empowerment stemmed from her own curiosity, many of her family members served as key role models. Growing up, she watched her mom, aunts and grandmothers overcome the obstacles life threw at them, noting, “I think it really does inspire me to keep pushing.” Her dad, as well, has been a strong supporter of women’s rights, and she recognizes, “Both of my parents have taught me a lot.” She values her family’s support deeply and credits them with having encouraged her passions and worldview.

Caryn’s interest in and dedication to the topic were a perfect fit for WEAAU. The mission of the Women’s Empowerment Association is to “inspire change by encouraging discussion, facilitating learning experiences, and creating a fun environment for our club members.” Although they focus on supporting growth and connection among women, they welcome members of any gender and background to join them.

WEAAU has worked to provide empowerment to women on a number of fronts, including leadership, mentorship and community service. The team also decided to address the societal issue of sexual assault, hoping to provide support to victims and help women obtain resources to stand up for themselves and others. Through taking on the difficult topic, Caryn hoped to build a strong, supportive female community, both on and off campus. “This is not a political club. This is not a political ideology. I, personally, am not coming to this club with a political agenda,” Caryn conveys. “This club, in a small way, is making an impact to empower women to connect with each other.”

One of the first events Caryn helped to arrange occurred in April of 2020 and was in addition to her work with WEAAU. The program highlighted Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month and provided support

during a difficult time. Despite the constraints that COVID had instituted that summer, she and her friend, Valerie Akinyi, another student at Andrews, educated others about assault. They posted content, hosted presentations, and carried out question-and-answer sessions on Instagram Live. She explains, “We both cared about this issue a lot, and we wanted to get the conversation going.”

During her sophomore year, Caryn served as co-president of the WEAAU. She and Valerie joined forces again in April to do a month-long educational series on sexual assault, inviting women from different academic fields to speak on the issue. “We had different professors bring in their expertise, and we ended the month with a panel discussion with a few professors who talked about sexual assault and how we can go about changing things,” she recalls.

This provided the launching point for the main event that Caryn’s team planned for the 2021–2022 school year. Now president of the club, she began brainstorming ideas for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at the beginning of the school year. Inspiration struck when then graduate student Kalli Fuller shared the concept behind “Take Back the Night.” Caryn elaborates, “It was this nationwide, on-campus march that started in the ’90s. It was this idea that, as women, we are scared to walk out at night because of that fear and looming threat of being sexually assaulted. The idea is that you’re taking back the night for yourself, as a woman.”

Caryn loved the idea immediately. She and the WEAAU team collaborated with the Pre-Law Society, School of Social Work, Office of University Culture & Inclusion, Campus Safety, the University’s Title IX representatives as well as the Andrews audiovisual team to create their biggest event yet, “Take Back the Night.” It involved a march on April 2 that started with a gathering

Her goal of women’s empowerment echoes this message of love, support and strength. She expresses, “My advice for people who really do care is to look into it, educate yourself . . . and find small things to be plugged into.”

at the globe and ended at Newbold Auditorium in Buller Hall, where a brief program showcased solidarity for survivors of sexual assault. An art exhibit displayed a variety of work by Andrews students, including paintings, songs, collages, poetry and immersive art. The club also invited representatives from the Counseling & Testing Center, University Wellness and the Center for Faith Engagement to provide support and conversation at a Solidarity Wall just outside the Campus Center, where individuals could leave messages of encouragement for survivors of sexual assault.

“It’s important to talk about sexual assault because, as Adventists, we’re not exempt from this issue by any means. This is a topic I’ve been really passionate about since high school,” Caryn asserts. “Every single time I talk about this with someone, most of the girls and some guys that I’m talking to one-on-one end up telling me a story about their experience. Sometimes they’ve never told anyone before. Sometimes they don’t even [realize].” Although her goal has never been to solicit personal stories of abuse, she has been saddened to see just how common experiences of sexual assault are. “This is a really neglected area for us in the church. We don’t touch it, we don’t talk about it, and we just started talking about it as a society, during the Me Too movement era. . . . I think that’s why I’m really passionate about how we can do something about this.”

At the awareness event, Caryn and some of the other organizers had the opportunity to speak with a group of Andrews administrators and staff who attended. Together, they talked about related campus policies, culture and safety. By the end of the conversation, Caryn found the obvious care demonstrated by those involved to be deeply encouraging. She valued the University’s conscientious support throughout the evening.

Following the Take Back the Night event, Caryn continued to cultivate positive change through the rest of her term as president. In addition to fostering connection and support for women at Andrews, she made it a priority for the club “to empower others who aren’t on this campus.” Throughout the year, WEAAU collaborated with the nonprofit organization, Empowering Her, to provide resources for women in the surrounding Berrien Springs and Benton Harbor communities.

“I’ve learned so much about how to be a leader,” Caryn expresses. Throughout her term, she deliberately fostered a democratic organization and worked closely with her fellow officers to plan events. Some of her favorite moments involved bonding with her team, and she looks forward to the great things that the club will accomplish in the future, even after she graduates. She affirms, “I hope they’re able to carry on the legacy of women’s empowerment and do more than what I could have accomplished.”

Caryn is set to finish her senior year during fall semester 2022 and graduate in the spring. She plans to return to Arizona to attend law school, preparing to become a sex crimes prosecutor. One of her main goals, once she is more established, is to open doors for conversation about sexual assault both within the church and society as a whole. She explains, “I want to be way more involved in my local church in some sort of ministry that deals with this . . . where we can talk about, in a safe space, feminism and women’s issues and women’s empowerment so we’re not leaving young girls up for the world to teach them.”

Caryn hopes to challenge the church to talk about these issues and make the changes necessary to address them. She envisions a space in which academic and educational communication can take place while still being grounded in the Bible. In her personal experience with Scripture, she has seen countless examples of Jesus empowering women, all stemming from a place of love. Her goal of women’s empowerment echoes this message of love, support and strength. She expresses, “My advice for people who really do care is to look into it, educate yourself . . . and find small things to be plugged into.”

As she pursues her passions and dreams, Caryn grounds herself in her favorite Bible passage, Philippians 4:6–7, which states, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God.* The message has taught her to trust God with all things, especially when they are difficult. As Caryn continues to advocate for others, using her voice and her skills to change the world, her trust will remain in Him. ■

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*Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer*





◀ Caryn Cruz represented WCAAU in Andrews University's Clubs & Organizations Ice Cream Fair.

# Hinsdale Nurse Retires After 45-Year Career Helping Mothers Bring Babies into the World



▲ Jean Kingery, recently retired registered nurse from AdventHealth Hinsdale

Jean Kingery spent 45 years as a Labor and Delivery nurse at what is now AdventHealth Hinsdale. And she never wanted to be anywhere else. In fact, she was born at this hospital as were all her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Two of her granddaughters also have worked at Hinsdale and another granddaughter works at AdventHealth La Grange.

When Jean retired April 1, 2022, at age 84, she wrote a letter to her colleagues, expressing her joy and gratitude for her career. She said in the letter, “What an exciting career it’s been, welcoming those who come to us as a couple and leave us as a family. I often said to my patients, ‘Who else gets to see a miracle every day at work?’ It’s indeed a very special place.”

She found meaning even during times of sorrow, caring for those who experienced loss. “They are so heartbroken, and you have the reward of helping them get through that ordeal.”

Jean started her career in October 1977 after becoming a licensed practical nurse through a program at the hospital; ten years later, she became a registered nurse.

Jean believes strongly that God has guided her life and felt at home at Hinsdale. “I just felt like it was family there, like it wasn’t just a job for the people,” she said.

During her nearly 45 years of service, Jean saw a lot of changes. “The hardest change was computers,” she said. “I have had five different computer systems and learned all of them — all painfully.”

Despite changes, the essential nature of her work remained the same. Supporting mothers, many of whom were frightened and worried, was her favorite part of her job. “I was always calm, even when the mothers were not, and they believed I knew what I was doing,” she said.

She helped deliver countless babies and shared her experience and perspective with all the young nurses who came after her. As years passed, she began to think about how long she could continue to work.

“I never felt like I was working,” she said. “I loved my job. And if you love your job, you don’t want to leave it.” She put that decision in God’s hands.

“Every day when I went into work, I prayed God would make me a blessing to someone and give me the strength to do my job,” she said. “As I got older, I prayed God would show me when it should be over, because I didn’t want to quit.”

As the years passed, the night shifts she always worked began to take a greater toll, leaving her more and more tired at the end of each shift.

“I thought, ‘Lord, I hear you.’ I called and gave my two-week notice.”

As a self-proclaimed people person, she worried how she would adjust to retirement after her long and satisfying career. But she found a way to connect with her community, becoming very active in her church. Before retiring, she volunteered at her church to listen to children recite Bible verses they memorized, and she continues to do that. She also stays in touch with her former colleagues and looks for other ways to be helpful and stay connected.

“I am waiting for the Lord to show me what else He has for me,” she said. “I know He will show me because He has shown me all my life what He wants me to do.”

When people ask her how she likes retirement, she notes, “This is not retirement. It’s the final chapter of my life, and I want to make it as good as the other chapters.” ■

*Julie Busch is assistant vice president of Marketing & Communications for the Great Lakes Region of AdventHealth.*

# New Community Programs at Andrews



Alina Weber

▲ Explore Andrews Summer Camps launched in June 2022.

Andrews University is excited to highlight two new programs directed toward community engagement: community art classes and Explore Andrews summer camps. Both aim to bring individuals to campus for hands-on learning and creativity.

In September 2021, a vision to revive the ceramics studio on the Andrews campus came to life. Kari Friestad, associate professor of Painting and Drawing, and Amy Rosenthal, dean, College of Arts & Sciences and associate provost for Undergraduate Education, wanted to see empty studios filled with students again. Several dedicated alumni and student lab assistants cleaned workspaces, tested equipment and ordered supplies.

The AU Community Art program offers visual art studio classes to both the campus and local community. Friestad explains, “I see the opportunity as a door to many types of outreach. These classes are significant and important because the process of making art is a healing and relaxing activity that can be used to help manage stress.”

The first undergraduate ceramics classes since 2017 were launched in January, and one community art class was soft-launched

in March. Beginning in June, the first summer session ran successfully, and more courses are in development for the fall. Classes typically run for 3 to 6 weeks and meet 1 or 2 times a week. Currently, the courses include Intro to Watercolor and Intro to Wheel Throwing with more to come. Updates and information can be found at the community art website, and inquiries can be directed to [communityart@andrews.edu](mailto:communityart@andrews.edu).

With a similar goal of fostering community creativity and growth, the Explore Andrews Summer Camps launched in June 2022. Almost three years in the making, the program was formulated by Aaron Moushon, assistant dean for Undergraduate Education and Explore Andrews program director, and his team.

Moushon’s program targets middle school students, who typically have not been served by the University before. He explains, “Through this program, students will be able to better understand the learning opportunities that a college education provides, without the pressure of earning credit.”

Each of the camps is led by an Andrews academic department and instructed by a

faculty member, allowing students to learn from professionals in their area of interest. This past summer, a variety of topics were offered, including Lego Robotics, Pre-Veterinary, and Art and Design. Moushon notes, “Students can expect a unique, hands-on experience that will introduce them to topics that they might not normally encounter in middle school or even high school settings. Imagine being in the seventh grade and learning engineering from a university faculty member through Lego Robotics.”

The opportunity is open to students between the ages of 13–16 who are enrolled in 7th through 9<sup>th</sup> grades. The programs take place as day camps over the course of one week, Monday through Friday. More information can be found at the Explore Andrews website or through contacting [explore@andrews.edu](mailto:explore@andrews.edu).

Both Friestad and Moushon look forward to connecting with people in new ways. Moushon expresses, “We have a vision of drawing community members onto campus, some of whom might not even know we’re here.” ■

Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer

▼ This Ceramics I class took place in spring 2022.



Randy Ramos



## City of Lansing sued by Justice Dept. for discrimination against Adventist member

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a religious discrimination lawsuit against the City of Lansing for the alleged firing of a Lansing Seventh-day Adventist Church member who refused to work on the Sabbath, a violation of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In the complaint filed on July 15, Sylvia Coleman says she was hired as a detention officer in 2018 after notifying officials in the police and human resources departments that she was unavailable to work from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. Rather than taking steps to accommodate her, the city fired Sylvia almost immediately.

The DOJ is seeking backpay with interest, as well as compensatory damages for Sylvia. Additionally, it seeks to have a judge issue an injunction preventing the city from discriminating against employees on the basis of religion and order the city to develop and implement policies that would prevent religious discrimination.

In a news report, City of Lansing Attorney Jim Smiertka denies the allegation, stating, "We do not believe that what was stated is consistent with the facts and the law as we know it."

According to a DOJ news release, "Religious discrimination and intolerance have no place in the workplace

today," Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division said in a statement. "Employees should not have to choose between their religion and their livelihood, particularly when the employer can accommodate their religious beliefs."

### Details of the Lawsuit

According to the complaint, Sylvia was interviewed for the detention officer position in December 2017 and, during her interview, she informed them that she wouldn't be able to work from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset in observance of the Sabbath as a Seventh-day Adventist.

Sylvia advanced to a second interview in February 2018; during that interview, she was again asked about scheduling. She explained that she had a flexible schedule and could work different schedules, but in stating that she was flexible, Sylvia meant that she was flexible outside of her observance of the Sabbath.

Sylvia was offered and accepted the position in June. After reviewing her work schedule on her first day, June 18, she noticed that she had been scheduled to work on Saturday, June 23, 2018, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sylvia restated that she couldn't work Saturdays. After a series of meetings, on June 21, 2018, she received a termination letter, informing her that "effective June 20, 2018, the City of Lansing is terminating your employment due to you not being able to meet the job requirements of the Detention Officer position."

### Lake Union Prompts Investigation

Shortly before her termination, Sylvia contacted the office of the Lake Union Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, which advocates for members facing issues such as Sabbath accommodation. Lake Union's PARL director Nicholas Miller responded by sending a letter and calling the City's HR office to see if the decision could be reversed. When they would not budge, he was left with no choice but to file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

After an investigation, the EEOC found cause to believe that discrimination had taken place. Usually under those circumstances, Miller reports, the agency will issue a right to sue letter that allows the victim to file a lawsuit with a private attorney. Miller explains that in a small number of particularly worthy or important cases the federal government itself, through the Department of Justice, will sue to vindicate the victim's rights. That is what has happened in Sylvia's case.

"This is an exciting development for Sylvia," says Miller, "as after nearly three years of nothing happening, we had thought that her case was dead in the water."

Sylvia's story was published in the October 2020 *Herald*, where it was reported that standing for God might not bring short-term success or vindication, but it is nevertheless important to be faithful.

"The Lord had blessed her with a new and more satisfying job working with at-risk children, but we thought that vindication for her Sabbath convictions might not come in this world." Miller continues. "But apparently the delay in the case investigation was due to the pandemic slowdown. Now, rather unexpectedly, Sylvia faces the prospect of perhaps having her Sabbath convictions respected and protected in this life after all."

As her case moves forward, please remember her and her case in your prayers. ■

*Debbie Michel, Communication director, Lake Union Conference*



Samuel Girven



Samuel Girven

▲ The center will support the community with a food pantry and lifestyle classes. Leaders also plan to focus heavily on youth ministry in partnership with other community organizations, such as the sheriff's department, Spectrum Health and Michigan State University.

## Irons Church dedicates new community center

### VALUE OF DONATED SERVICES TOPS \$450,000

After almost a decade after stepping out in faith and then experiencing several miracles along the way, on July 10 the Irons Church in Irons, Mich., held the dedication and open house of their new community center.

The brand new 3,000-square-foot building will provide a new home for its Community Services ministry as well as serving as a center of influence for the area.

At the open house, several community partners pledged continued support for the much-needed center that will serve one of the poorest counties in the state.

#### A Legacy of Assistance Continues

Since the 1960s, the Irons Community Center has served individuals in need.

The community center was established

in a defunct Grange Hall built in the 1890s. However, as the building aged, it became apparent to church leaders that the once suitable building no longer served their needs. Stepping out in faith, the Irons Church decided to shut down its old center. Vowing to never go into debt and with a nest egg of \$11,000 in hand, the church set out to build a new home for its community center.

A series of miracles since that decision has propelled the church's vision forward. "The money just kept showing up!" says Nancy Przedwojewski, one of the community center's leaders. A realtor donated prime real estate. Professor Martin Smith and the Andrews University School of Architecture & Interior Design chose to do the plans for the building at a fraction of the standard rate. Contractors worked as the money for projects came in; later, contractors even donated their labor and paid for materials. In 2021, a generous donor supplied nearly \$16,000 worth of goods for a gigantic community yard sale. Donations, grants and other in-kind donations also were a major part of the

project. All combined, Przedwojewski estimates the value of all the donations exceeds \$450,000.

#### Community Pulls Together for Center

The rural community has rallied around the community center in a variety of ways.

Several businesses and individuals around Northern Michigan donated their time and services while the center was built. These businesses include electricians, concrete finishers, heating/cooling companies, plumbers, sign-makers, carpet companies, septic plumbing contractors, landscapers, roofers, and siding companies.

Richard L. Martin, Lake County sheriff, says his department plans involvement with the center by mentoring youth and providing safety training. "Being the sheriff is not just about law enforcement," he says. "There are always things that we can be doing as a law enforcement agency that can establish a better relationship with the community. We all live in this community, and we need to make this community better."

Rachel Gillespie, Community Nutrition instructor at the Lake County Michigan State University (MSU) Extension, says they plan to offer lifestyle, nutrition, and other food-related classes for people of all ages at the community center. "We are planning on offering nutrition programs at the community center," she said.

Przedwojewski says that Spectrum Health and the Michigan Department of Health (District 10) also are planning on offering programs at the community center.

Chelli Ringstaff, director of Adventist Community Services for Michigan, says she is looking forward to working with the new center. "I'm so grateful for all of the love, care and hard work that Irons has poured into starting their new community service center," she said. "I'm eagerly looking forward to seeing the

new relationships this ACS center will forge within the community — the Lord is going to be working alongside Irons as they minister.”

### Moving Forward

Community center leaders have made several plans to reach the surrounding area.

The center will support the community with a food pantry and lifestyle classes. They also plan to focus heavily on youth

ministry in partnership with other community organizations.

As for future ideas, Przedwojewski says leaders are considering offering more programming, including daytime programming for senior citizens, grief recovery assistance, parenting classes, and more. “In God’s work, there is no place for sitting on the sidelines.” she said.

All things considered, Przedwojewski hopes that they will be able to lead their community to something more profound.

“They all know we’re doing good in the community. But I want them to know something deeper. I don’t care if they come to church. What I want is for them to meet the Lord. I want them to find some peace in life because of a relationship with God. That is my ultimate goal.” ■

*Samuel Girven, 15, is a student at Northview Adventist School and ASPIRE Academy.*



▲ John T. Boston II

## Lake Region church to serve as evangelism training hub

### NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION EVANGELISM INSTITUTE LAUNCHES NEW URBAN INITIATIVE

In an effort to reach urban centers more effectively in the Lake Union and across North America, the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) and Lake Region Conference have formed an innovative partnership.

Shiloh Church and its adjoining Chicago Adventist Christian Academy are to be established as a laboratory for seminarians to receive enhanced, hands-on training in an urban ministry context. Overseeing the initiative is NADEI’s associate director, John T. Boston II, who fills the senior pastor role at Shiloh Church.

Prior to his July 16 installation, Boston said he was looking forward to pastoring the Chicago southside church because it represents one of the greatest urban mission fields in America where “millions of stories of grace” are waiting to be told.

“I am absolutely excited that Lake Region and NADEI are partnering together to discover fresh ways that the Holy Spirit will resolve the growth challenges facing our Adventist churches and schools,” says Boston. “We are in pursuit of a church and school environment that is multiplying in an urban context. I believe God will answer this prayer.”

Anticipating inventive, bold plans for the conference’s flagship church and school located in the heart of the city, Lake Region President Garth Gabriel stated that the joint venture was brought about by Divine Providence.

“Evangelism is an important aspect of ministry,” he said. “If we’re not going out into the highways and byways, we’re wasting our time. John [Boston] is known as an evangelist, and we believe he will be a difference-maker, leading Shiloh to be

the beacon on the hill that it has always been.”

Driving this initiative are population trends and opportunities for mission to the cities. The UN projects that 68 percent of the world’s population will live in urban centers by 2050. A challenge the church faces is that many Adventist faith communities are not thriving in these places.

The Lake Union is home to the North American Division Evangelism Institute, based at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary on the campus of Andrews University. Lake Union is also the home of three of the top 30 most populated cities in America: Chicago (#3), Indianapolis (#14), and Detroit (#27).

Chicago, a city of almost three million, has historic significance for both NADEI and the Lake Region Conference. NADEI was founded in 1979 in Chicago with the goal of providing training to seminarians in practical, pastoral and evangelistic ministry. Meanwhile, Shiloh Church has a rich legacy dating back to 1944 when a group gathered there and voted into existence the first regional conference, Lake Region.

Please pray for this partnership and the pathways that will be discovered through the Holy Spirit’s work in the Lake Union. ■

*Debbie Michel, Lake Union Conference Communication director*



▲ “There are people in our city and our state who are dealing with mental health issues and substance abuse, and we want them to know we care,” said Claval Hunter, pastor, South Bend Berean Church.



▲ The Faith in Indiana town hall meeting was represented by a cross-section of faith and political leaders, including, from left to right: Indiana State Senator Mike Bohacek, Evangel Heights United Methodist Rev. Michelle Cobb, Faith in Indiana St. Joseph County Chapter and community organizer Andre Stoner, Berean intern Chaka Samuel, Berean intern Foluke Arthurton, Berean intern Mario Cuevas, Black Church Coalition organizer with Faith in Indiana Indianapolis Josh Riddick, Berean Pastor Claval Hunter, and South Bend First Church Pastor Throstur Thordarson.

## Indiana church responds to mental health crisis

Faith leaders from the South Bend area gathered at the South Bend First Church on Sunday, April 24, to bring attention to the needs of improving the state’s responses to crises.

Members of the Saint Joseph County Chapter of Faith in Indiana, including South Bend’s Berean Church Pastor Claval Hunter, helped organize the “We Make Indiana” event to encourage funding and support from local and state elected officials for a statewide crisis response system to make the community safer.

“There are people in our city and our state who are dealing with mental health issues and substance abuse, and we want them to know we care,” said Claval Hunter, host of We Make Indiana. “We don’t want any more handcuffs, and we want them to be able to get the treatment that they need.”

The captivating theme, “Help, Not Handcuffs,” highlights the committee’s goal to provide more help for those who struggle with mental health or addiction. The main initiative is for funding a statewide crisis response system. This response system has been recommended so that mental health and addiction

specialists, rather than the police, will be the first responders to a mental health or addiction crisis and can provide a mental health professional evaluation and referral for the appropriate level of care and treatment.

Organizers of the event are incredibly passionate about the initiative because some know how it feels to be a victim of the current system, where police are called first with no mental health professional involved.

“I know what it feels like not to have your father at your games, not to be able to have your father at your high school graduation,” said Faith in Indiana member Dion Payne-Miller. Payne-Miller stated that he wanted elected officials to fully commit to having sustainable funding for the statewide crisis response center so families are not adversely affected. “Our lives are at stake here; our families’ lives are at stake here.”

The 250 community members that came out rose to their feet when State Senator Linda Rogers and State Representative Maureen Bauer pledged to secure funding for the crisis response system in the 2023 legislative budget.

“They are committed to working with Faith in Indiana and are saying ‘We are going to find ways to help fund this crisis response system,’ so we got their commitment today,” Hunter exclaimed.

In addition to participation in the crisis response initiative, the South Bend Berean and Maranatha churches announced a March for Peace to address the high level of violence in South Bend with a walk in the city. The church invited the community and faith leaders to join the Sabbath, May 14, event to help spread the message of peace, not violence, and make our communities safe. ■

*Beverly Sedlacek, South Bend Berean Church  
Communication director*



▲ As the only ABC in the Lake Union, the Indiana Conference feels very fortunate to again be able to provide an ABC for not only Indiana but also Michigan and Wisconsin camp meetings as well.

## One ABC store. Three simultaneous camp meetings.

### HOW AN INDIANA STORE MANAGED THE NEEDS OF THE LAKE UNION

Weeks before camp meeting began, Three Angels Natural Foods and Christian Books was energetically ordering, pricing, packing boxes, and making sure that three camp meetings (happening simultaneously) would have all the necessary inventory to satisfy the needs of the people.

Historically, most camp meetings have had their own ABC stores that provide Christian books, veggie food, used books and novelty items. As the only ABC in the Lake Union, the Indiana Conference feels very fortunate to again be able to provide an ABC for not only Indiana but also Michigan and Wisconsin camp meetings as well.

Michigan, a larger-based camp meeting, presented more of a challenge in trying to anticipate which books would be needed, or how many cans of veggie meat should be on site. "Countless hours went into ordering, setting up and implementing a fully functioning store during Michigan Camp Meeting with enough variety to keep people shopping all week. It was good to see that people still have a passion and desire to not only buy books for themselves, but also to buy for sharing with others," said Randy Griffin, Three Angels general manager.

The most popular food item in Michigan was Big Franks. Even though they are now packaged with six in a can, this didn't deter people from purchasing their favorite frank! (The overall price is comparable to when there were eight in a can.) Fortunately, everyone has their favorites and came in to purchase frozen or canned foods throughout the week.

Wisconsin camp meeting was privileged to have Kurt Bandel, who was Wisconsin's ABC manager from 1980 to 1985, set up and run the store all week. Since this conference has a veggie food store called The Lighthouse, we were able to share space with them where we set up a variety of books, music and children's materials. Under Kurt's guidance, we were blessed to be able to sell a large amount of our inventory. It is evident that the members of Wisconsin are very supportive of the Adventist book ministry. Kurt said, "I fell in love with the people of Wisconsin many years ago, and part of my heart is still there."

Our faithful store manager in Indiana, Annette McLamb, helped each location order inventory and was always on hand to answer questions and help problem solve throughout each day. Many of our Indiana members took advantage of camp meeting prices and are thankful that we still have the convenience of a store to visit and browse through products.

In the aftermath of three camp meetings for Three Angels Natural Foods and Christian Books, the large-scale endeavor is still being processed. As we re-shelve books and reorganize veggie food, we pray that our expenses do not exceed our combined sales! With God's guidance, we keep putting one foot in front of the other and trusting that this ministry is essential to those seeking spiritual and physical healing. Please keep us in your prayers as we serve the Lake Union and manage this branch of God's work. ■

*Kathy Griffin, Three Angels Natural Foods and Christian Books marketing and promotion manager. To place an order, call 317-984-5393 or visit [www.adventistbookcenter.com](http://www.adventistbookcenter.com).*





# Indiana church breaks ground for new school

## NEXT PHASE TO INCLUDE MEDICAL EVANGELISM CENTER

On June 6, the Fort Wayne First Church broke ground in an ambitious effort to build a new elementary school, the first phase of a launch pad for a church plant and medical evangelism outreach facility.

The ceremony, which was covered by WANE-TV Channel 15, was attended by several leaders, including Fort Wayne pastor David DeRose, Indiana Conference Education superintendent Peter Cousins, Lake Union associate treasurer Jermaine Jackson and the city's commissioner Jason Arp.

Ft. Wayne Church treasurer and building committee chair, Candice Hagar, explains that plans were put in motion five years ago to purchase property closer to the city. The move was necessary because families were paying almost as much to drive to the current location as they were paying in tuition. Additionally, the cost of maintaining the facility was spiraling upward.

As church leaders began dreaming about its future, it became clear that a new school would spark opportunities for revitalization and evangelism. "We recognize that a healthy school enables a healthy and vibrant church as it attracts more families with children who are looking for an Adventist education opportunity," says Hagar. "A private parochial education is a big step into bringing families into the fold and introducing them to Jesus and His love."

The new 7,500 sq. ft. Aboite Christian School will include a 6,000 sq. ft. size gymnasium. About 30 students are currently enrolled, but that number is expected to rise at the new site, located just one mile from the city limit. Meanwhile, the

current school building has since been sold and the clock is now ticking for the new facility's completion and occupancy by Jan. 1, 2023.

Plans call for the next phase of construction of the additional buildings to commence once the school building loan is repaid. The Lake Union is a partner in furnishing a loan from Lake Union Revolving Fund, an association that provides investment opportunities to

constituents, conferences and related entities within the Lake Union territory and financial resources to its conferences and related entities.

For more information on the Ft. Wayne Church building expansion, please contact Candice Hagar at [candicehagar@gmail.com](mailto:candicehagar@gmail.com). ■

*Debbie Michel is director of Communication for the Lake Union Conference.*



▲ The ceremony, which was covered by WANE-TV Channel 15, was attended by several leaders, including (left to right): Strebig Construction contractor Jim Coe, Ft. Wayne Building Committee chair Candice Hagar, Aboite Christian School principal Doreen King, Fort Wayne pastor David DeRose, Ft. Wayne city commissioner Jason Arp, Indiana Conference Education superintendent Peter Cousins, and Lake Union associate treasurer Jermaine Jackson.



▲ Artistic rendering of the 7,500 sq. ft. Aboite Christian School now under construction.

## AdventHealth GlenOaks names new president and CEO

AdventHealth has named Vladimir Radivojevic president and CEO for AdventHealth GlenOaks, a 143-bed hospital serving the Glendale Heights community, effective July 17.

Radivojevic succeeds Bruce Christian, who announced his retirement earlier this year. Christian served as CEO for AdventHealth GlenOaks since 2011 and will continue in his role as president and CEO of AdventHealth Bolingbrook until he retires October 3. Christian will assist Radivojevic throughout the transition while a national search for his successor at AdventHealth Bolingbrook is underway.

Radivojevic joined AdventHealth in 2017 as vice president and chief operating officer for AdventHealth Bolingbrook and GlenOaks, where he was responsible

for leadership and direction of hospital operations, budget performance and multiple service lines. He has achieved notable success, leading efforts that have produced quality and clinical improvements as well as financial gains at both hospitals. In 2019, The Leapfrog Group named both hospitals as Top General Hospitals nationally for their achievements in patient safety and quality.

"We're very pleased to have Vladimir serve in this new capacity at our GlenOaks facility," said Thor Thordarson, president and CEO for the Great Lakes Region of AdventHealth. "He has notable experience in driving financial and operational performance, and building strong relationships with team members, providers and residents in this community."

Radivojevic came to AdventHealth from Goshen Health in Indiana, where he served in various leadership roles, including vice president of hospital operations;

assistant vice president and, later, vice president of surgery, heart and vascular services; and vice president of surgery and gastrointestinal services.

Radivojevic has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, a Master of Science in physical therapy as well as a Bachelor of Science in anatomy and physiology from Andrews University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of its local independent chapter, the Chicago Healthcare Executive Forum.

"I'm honored to be asked to lead the incredible team at AdventHealth GlenOaks," Radivojevic said. "These past five years have been a blessing for my family and me, and I look forward to building on our accomplishments as we continue to extend the healing ministry of Christ." ■

*Chris Zurales, Marketing manager, AdventHealth*



Courtesy AdventHealth GlenOaks

**"These past five years have been a blessing for my family and me, and I look forward to building on our accomplishments as we continue to extend the healing ministry of Christ."**

▲ Vladimir Radivojevic, former vice president and chief operating officer of AdventHealth Bolingbrook and GlenOaks, will serve as president and CEO of AdventHealth GlenOaks effective July 17.

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 [www.lakeunionherald.org](http://www.lakeunionherald.org). Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.

## ANNIVERSARIES



**Robert "Bob" and Rosemary "Rosie" Shaffer** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 8, 2022, with family from Three Rivers, Mich., and Charleston, S.C. They met at Adelpian Academy and were high school sweethearts. Soon after high school, they were married in the Adventist Church in Detroit, Mich.. They have been active members of the Hastings Church for the past 60 years.

## BIRTHDAYS

**Clara "Nellie" (Snelling) Johnson**, born July 21, 1922, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, July 24, 2022, with an open house for family and friends at the Urbandale Church fellowship hall. For over 70 years, she has been a member of the Urbandale Church in Michigan. Nellie served in the medical field as an LPN and a nurse's aide. After her husband's death, Nellie volunteered for hospice for 20+ years and started a food pantry in the Urbandale area. She also worked with other food pantries in the Battle Creek area. Nellie served in this area for 20 years. She and her husband had four children: Patricia (Forest) Walter, Barbara (Rodney) Hyde, Jerry (Marie) Johnson, and Harry (Laurie)

Johnson; nine grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

**CLAYTON, Bonnie (Calvert)**, age 81; born June 22, 1940, in Chicago, died Sept. 16, 2021, in Chicago. She was a member of the North Shore Church in Chicago. Survivors include her sons, Michael Clayton, and Alexander Clayton; daughters, Laura Clayton, and Rose Clayton; ten grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. A private inurnment service was held. If you would like to send a card of sympathy or a gift in memoriam, please send it to Laura Clayton at 7121 N Ridge Blvd #409 Chicago, IL 60645.

**HAMBERGER, Karen R. (Leggitt)**, age 62; born Dec. 16, 1959, in Glendale, Calif.; died June 26, 2022, in Madison, Tenn. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison. Survivors include her husband, David Hamberger; son, Jeffrey Hamberger; mother, Gloria Walde Leggitt; brother, Leroy Leggitt; and sister, Susan Padilla. A memorial service was held in Tennessee. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Madison Academy.

**POUPORE, Barbara J. (Carron Ramashko)**, age 78; born Sept. 13, 1943, in Pontiac, Mich.; died July 8, 2022, in Marinette, Wis. She was a member of the Wilson Church in Wilson, Mich. Survivors include her husband, Harold Poupore; son, Matt (Kristi) Ramashko; stepson, Todd Poupore; stepdaughters, Cindy (Ray) Myers, Renee (William) Bartel, and Marcy (Donald) Robinson; brothers; sisters-in-law; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and six step-grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor

Jacob Gibbs at the Spalding Township Cemetery in Spalding, Mich.

**VELDMAN, Colleen A.**, age 59; born Sept. 9, 1960, in Marshfield, Wis.; died Feb. 8, 2022, in Appleton, Wis. She was a member of the Green Bay Church in Green Bay, Wis. Survivors include her mother, Phyllis (Labrenz) Veldman; brother, Jeffrey (Carrie) Veldman; and sister, Sandra (Toby) Paulsen. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor William Ochs; private graveside service was held in the Oxford Village Cemetery in Oxford, Wis.

## CORRECTION

**BOELTER, (Drozewski) Ruth**, age 97; born July 10, 1924, in Milwaukee, Wis.; died May 10, 2022, in Berrien Springs, Mich. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Mich. Survivors include her daughters, Faith (Doug) Gregg, and Wendy Godfrey; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A private service was held in Michigan. Condolences, photos and memories may be left for the family at <https://bit.ly/3tStIRB>.

FOR IF WE BELIEVE  
THAT JESUS DIED AND  
ROSE AGAIN, EVEN SO  
THEM ALSO WHICH  
SLEEP IN JESUS WILL  
GOD BRING WITH HIM.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14

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>.

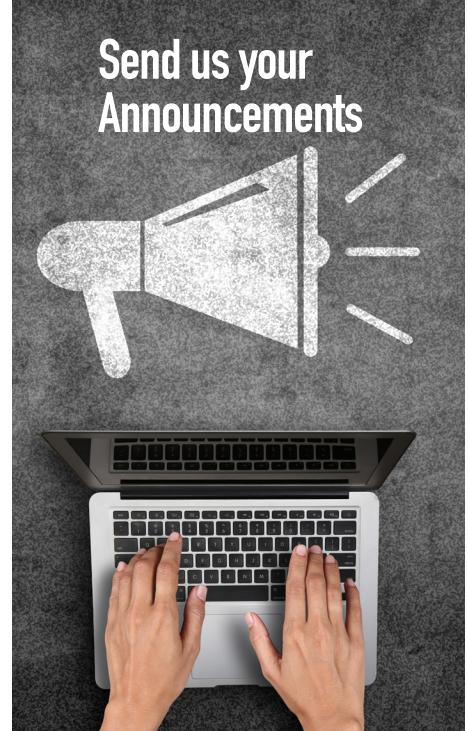
**OCTOBER 14-15** — Andrews Academy invites alumni (those who attended/graduated, and/or worked at EMCA/AUA/AA) to a reunion on the third weekend in October. Honor classes this year end in '2 and '7. The class of **1972** will celebrate its golden (50th) reunion. The class of **1997** will celebrate its silver (25th) reunion. Alumni, please watch your email, our website at [andrews.edu/aa/](http://andrews.edu/aa/), Instagram (@andrews\_academy\_alumni), and Facebook (@andrewsacademyaa) for any updates. If you don't receive emails from us, please contact us at [AAalumni@andrews.edu](mailto:AAalumni@andrews.edu) so we can add you to our list. You also can call us at 269-471-3138 for updates.

**LEGAL NOTICE** — Notice is hereby given that the thirty-ninth regular quadrennial session of the **Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Wisconsin Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, Wisconsin, on Sunday, October 16, 2022.** The organizing committee will meet at 8:00 a.m. with the first meeting of the session convening at 10 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to elect officers, directors of departments/services, and members of the executive committee, constitution and bylaws committee, and nominating committee for the new quadrennial term, along with corporation trustees for the ensuing quadrennial term. Delegates will also transact such other business as may properly come before them. Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Titus Naftanaila, President  
F. Brian Stephan, Executive Secretary

**LEGAL NOTICE** — Notice is hereby given that the **34th regular constituency session of the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hinsdale, Illinois, with the first meeting called at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, October 23, 2022.** This session is for the purpose of receiving reports of the quadrennium which ended December 31, 2021; to elect officers, departmental directors and an executive committee for the ensuing term; and to transact such other business as may properly come before the constituency, including possible changes in the Constitution and Bylaws. Delegates are those duly elected by the churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or fraction thereof, based on actual church membership as of September 30 of the year preceding the meeting. The Organizing Committee for this meeting met at the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists office, on **Sunday, July 10, at 10:00 am.**

John Gryns, Executive Secretary



## CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 3** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 10** World Budget (Emphasis: Radio Ministries) (GC)
- Sept. 17** Local Church Budget
- Sept. 24** Local Conference Advance



## Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	Sept. 2	Sept. 9	Sept. 16	Sept. 23	Sept. 30
Berrien Springs, Mich.	8:18	8:07	7:54	7:42	7:30
Chicago, Ill.	7:24	7:12	6:59	6:47	6:35
Detroit, Mich.	8:06	7:54	7:41	7:29	7:17
Indianapolis, Ind.	8:15	8:04	7:53	7:41	7:30
La Crosse, Wis.	7:40	7:28	7:15	7:02	6:49
Lansing, Mich.	8:12	8:00	7:48	7:35	7:23
Madison, Wis.	7:32	7:20	7:07	6:54	6:42
Springfield, Ill.	7:29	7:18	7:07	6:55	6:44

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>.

**EDUCATION**

**KINDERGARTEN DAILY WORK FOR HOMESCHOOLING AND CLASSROOM TEACHERS**—Kindergarten Daily Work is an easy-to-use, teacher-friendly, kindergarten curriculum developed by a kindergarten teacher of 18 years. It is a complete school year of phonics-based reading, writing, handwriting and arithmetic lessons. Included are 119 Student Reader Booklets, 52 Picture Prompt Student Writing Books and over three months of daily, independent, academic Center Time Activities. To view and download FREE examples, visit [teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Kindergarten-Daily-Work](http://teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Kindergarten-Daily-Work).

**EMPLOYMENT**

**ANDREWS UNIVERISTY SEEKS FACULTY – LEADERSHIP & EDU ADMIN**—Teach graduate-level courses; teach online and courses blended with face-to-face delivery; serve on doctoral dissertation committees; develop a research agenda demonstrated through publications and/or presentations at professional conferences; advise master's and doctoral students in their program and course plan; provide timely, constructive feedback to students to help them monitor their progress and support learning; participate in program, department and University committees and service; develop proficiency in multiple technology platforms for student learning and portfolios; remain current with trends, techniques, and advances in distance learning; pursue University-required activities for eligibility for promotion and tenure; perform other

duties and tasks as needed. Link: [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_9](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_9)

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY – FOREMAN ELECTRICAL**—Supervises and coordinates activities of electrical department with regard to installation, maintenance and repair of electric power, lighting and all electrical equipment/services on the University campus by performing the following duties. Maintains and tests camps fire and security equipment/systems. Rotates weekend shifts

**REAL ESTATE**

to take call for emergency service calls including repairs beyond normal work hours as required. May be called in at any time to assist with emergency repairs as needed. When on normal call rotation the response time to an emergency should not exceed more than thirty minutes. Link: [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff\\_hourly#job\\_26](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_hourly#job_26)

**LAW PRACTICE AND BUILDING—For sale in Berrien Springs, Mich.**, located directly across from the Andrews University entrance. If interested, please contact Bonnie Perry via email at [bperry9199@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bperry9199@sbcglobal.net) or call 312-953-5871.

**BEYOND BLESSINGS 3  
SERMON WRITING  
CAMPAIGN:**

We are excited to launch our latest sermon writing campaign to gather your best sermons on Revolutionary Generosity Stewardship! Our plan is to award \$500 and publish the best sermons as a resource for pastors and church leaders.



**STEWARDSHIP**

Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

[nadstewardship.org](http://nadstewardship.org)

**For more info:**



## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Sept. 22–25: Alumni Homecoming Weekend

## HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

For more information on the following events and to purchase tickets, call 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560, or visit [howard.andrews.edu](http://howard.andrews.edu).

Sept. 18, 7 p.m.: Fiscoff Competition Winds Winners Concert

Sept. 24, 8 p.m.: Alumni Gala Concert

Sept. 25, 7 p.m.: Anthony Brown & Group TherAPy

## ILLINOIS

Sept. 10: Hispanic Elder's Retreat, Hinsdale Adventist Academy

Sept. 11: Sabbath School and Lay Training, Illinois Conference Office

Sept. 24: Elder's Retreat / Leadership Summit, Hinsdale Adventist Academy

## INDIANA

Sept. 2–4: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Timber Ridge Camp

Sept. 9–11: Adventurer Family Weekend, Timber Ridge Camp

Sept. 14–18: Indiana Academy Home Leave

Sept. 23–25: Brown County Blowout Mountain Bike Weekend, Timber Ridge Camp

Sept. 30–Oct. 2: Public Campus Fellowship Retreat

Sept. 30–Oct. 2: Pathfinder Backpack Trip, Waveland

## LAKE REGION

Sept. 2–4: Hispanic Camp Meeting, Camp Wagner

## MICHIGAN

Sept. 9–11: Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Au Sable, Northwoods

Sept. 9–11: UP Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola

Sept. 11–15: Golden Years Retreat, Camp Au Sable

Sept. 14–18: GLAA Home Leave

Sept. 19: Pastor & Teacher Convention, Great Lakes Adventist Academy

Sept. 23–25: Family First, Camp Au Sable

Sept. 30–Oct. 2: Public Campus Ministries Retreat, Camp Sagola

Sept. 30–Oct. 2: TLT Squared, Camp Au Sable, Northwoods

## WISCONSIN

Sept. 2–4: Hispanic Master Guide Camporee, Camp Wakonda

Sept. 7–9: Outdoor School, Camp Wakonda

Sept. 9–11: Adventurer Camporee, Camp Wakonda

Sept. 23–24: Hispanic Marriage Retreat (Canceled)

Sept. 23–25: Public Campus Ministries Retreat, Camp Wakonda

## LAKE UNION

Sept. 15–18: Lake Union Pathfinder Camporee, Berrien Springs Fairgrounds

Sept. 30–Oct. 2: Lake Union Secondary Leadership, Camp Au Sable



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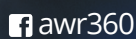
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# Indianápolis inaugura un templo nuevo

*“El Señor usará a muchos hombres y mujeres con habilidades comunes. Al trabajar de manera humilde alcanzarán el corazón de la gente. . . . La cantidad de bien que estos portadores de luz en realidad logran no puede ser jamás comprendida en este mundo”* (EUM Ms 34, 1902, pár. 8).



▲ Carmelo Mercado

Hace muchos años fui a Bolivia como estudiante misionero. Estando allí serví como ayudante en la iglesia de Santa Ana, y me di cuenta que dicha iglesia necesitaba un salón para que los niños pudieran reunirse para la escuela sabática. Debido a la situación financiera de los hermanos en ese tiempo sabía que sería muy difícil reunir los fondos para la construcción. Las ofrendas que se recogían los sábados apenas alcanzaban para cubrir los gastos básicos. Comprendía también que la Misión Boliviana no tenía los fondos necesarios para ese proyecto.

Así que consultamos con los miembros de iglesia y decidimos dedicar un tiempo al ayuno y la oración y pedirle a Dios que nos diera lo que tanto necesitábamos para esa construcción. Recuerdo específicamente un culto de oración en el cual pedimos la ayuda de Dios, y al concluir esa reunión sentí una fuerte impresión y certeza de que Dios nos había escuchado. A la mañana siguiente me levanté para ir a ver si había correspondencia para mí. (Aún no existía el internet ni el correo electrónico). Para mi alegría, encontré una carta de mi hermano desde los Estados Unidos, y la gran sorpresa fue que dentro del sobre venía una buena cantidad de dinero. En esa época la correspondencia que llegaba de los Estados Unidos demoraba unas dos semanas en llegar a la zona donde yo vivía en Bolivia. Me llamó mucho la atención el momento en que llegó el sobre. Comprendí que ya dos semanas antes de que hiciéramos el pedido en oración Dios ya conocía nuestra necesidad.

No hay duda alguna que Dios contestó también las oraciones de los miembros de la Iglesia Maranata en la ciudad de Indianápolis. Hace ya muchos años visité en una ocasión a un grupo de hermanos que alquilaba un pequeño espacio de la Iglesia Eastside. Era un espacio muy limitado. El grupo necesitaba su propio templo, pero el desafío era cómo adquirir uno. Cuando me informaron que habían comprado un terreno en la zona central de la ciudad me sorprendí mucho. Nunca había visto que una iglesia hispana construyera su templo en una ciudad tan grande como Indianápolis. Sin embargo, se logró gracias a mucho sacrificio y trabajo.

Doy gracias a Dios que junto a Eddie Allen, vicepresidente de la Asociación Regional del Lago, pudimos ver realizado este sueño. El nuevo templo de Indianápolis fue inaugurado el 21 de mayo de este año. Los hermanos de la iglesia, junto con su pastor, Edgar Pastrán, celebraron ese día también con el bautismo de más de cuarenta personas. Se anticipa un buen futuro para la obra hispana en esta ciudad, y sé que Dios usará esta iglesia para ayudar a cumplir la comisión que el Señor nos ha encomendado. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago



► Nueva Iglesia Maranata en Indianápolis



# Ten Percent Becomes One Billion

From the very beginning of earth's history (Gen 4 and 14:20), the bible provides insights into tithes and offerings, considered a demonstration of one's faith and complete dependences on God.

Tithing is defined as returning ten percent of your first fruits (earnings) to God through His storehouse, which in modern-day understanding is the church. Offering is considered giving additional contribution, apart from tithes, characterized as an act of love and generosity.

Tithes are used to directly support the mission and ministry of God. Ellen G. White states that "the payment of the tithe was but a part of God's plan for the support of His service" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 336). While the concept of tithes and offerings has not changed over time, the process has evolved based on the specific religious organization. The structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a worldwide denomination, is distinctly designed in a way that allows each church to be connected and supported through its headquarters, the General Conference. Thus, tithes returned at the local church primarily support the ministry of the local conference and local church (through the conference) as well as mission around the world. Alternatively, offerings contributed remain exclusively at the local church to fund the local ministry, unless specifically identified otherwise.

Understanding the tithing system and the support it renders to God's mission is valuable. What follows is a simplistic example of how \$1.00 of tithe is distributed:

**\$0.77** – Retained at the local Conference – Conference expenditures include but are not limited to: Conference and local church evangelism, educational institutions (up to 30 percent), employees' salaries and benefits (including retirement funding), Conference office operating expenses, and Conference-supported events and initiatives.

**\$0.09** – Distributed to the assigned Union Conference – Union expenditures include but are not limited to: appropriations and grants to local Conferences, Union and local Conference-supported events and initiatives, and Union office operating expenses.

**\$0.14** – Distributed to the North American Division (NAD) and General Conference (GC) – NAD and GC expenditures include but are not limited to: funding domestic and global mission programs, evangelism, institutional (educational, healthcare, media, etc.) and office operating expenses.

At the end of 2021, it was reported that in the NAD, a combined total of \$1.2 billion was returned to God's storehouse. Through faithfulness in tithing, God's mission was carried out around the Division and worldwide as tens of thousands were baptized, thousands of students received education through the Adventist school system, healthcare was provided to employees, and so much more.

"When all are faithful in giving back to God His own in tithes and offerings, the way will be opened for the world to hear the messages for this time. There would be no lack of funds for home or foreign missions. Our resources would be multiplied." (Ellen G. White, *Counsels for the Church*, p. 275) ■

*Jermaine Jackson is Stewardship director and associate treasurer of the Lake Union Conference.*



▲ Jermaine Jackson



# What God Taught Me

**MY NAME IS DELILAH DREW AND I'M A SENIOR AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY STUDYING MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE.** My five siblings and I attended all of the Adventist schools in Berrien Springs prior to college. You could say our family supports Christian education very well. My older sister, who did student missions in Kosrae, Micronesia, encouraged me to get out of my comfort zone by giving God a year of service. I was intrigued by the student missions vespers, their stories, struggles, their growth, and a high school mission trip to Mexico was a good experience. Since I was debating between a medical or teaching career, serving in one of those roles seemed perfect for getting clarity on whether God wanted me to do this or not.

In the summer of 2021, I became the kindergarten and first-grade teacher at the Yap SDA School. Yap is a tiny island, about 39 square miles, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. They have a rich heritage that is carefully preserved, and they are very proud of it. Amidst the lush tropical flora, friendly dogs lounge about and joyful children greet everyone with smiles. My class was packed with 15 energetic little ones, and I was responsible for transitioning them from unstructured play into

reading and math. I'm not going to sugarcoat it. When I came home from the first day of school, I was completely discouraged. My kids hadn't listened at all, they had been jumping all over the chairs and tables, chasing and playfully spanking each other, the classroom was left a total mess, and I hardly got through any of the lessons that I had worked so hard to plan. I worried that things weren't going to get any better and that I would just struggle my way through the rest of the year, barely hanging on. But God had things to teach me.

More experienced teachers surrounded me, encouraged me, shared their skills of classroom management, and invited me for a warm meal to cheer me up. I returned to the classroom the next day with renewed determination and, bluffing confidence, I was able to get the children in order and start teaching in earnest. Their sweet and eager-to-please characters came out. Three kids in particular were way behind the others. One of those was Silas, a kid needing extra love and attention. His loving grandmother and I prayed together for him, and I gave him tons of extra support and tutoring during recess and lunch. Little by little, in uneven steps, there was some headway. We kept at it. We kept praying. By the end of the year, he was fully caught up and as excited about school as the rest. Through God's help and many prayers, Silas became a learning miracle I'll never forget.

Although I genuinely enjoyed my teaching experience, I think I want to meld teaching with medicine for my personal future. I want to revisit Yap and create a clinic there. In addition to healing, I could teach preventive health and community hygiene. Being a student missionary helped me to see my God-given life purpose. I do not have to choose one thing or another; I can integrate all that God has given me to serve others. ■

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*Delilah Drew, Medical Laboratory Science major, Andrews University*

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*Delilah received a \$150 scholarship for this article. If you're a youth or young adult interested in submitting an article for consideration, please contact: [herald@lakeunion.org](mailto:herald@lakeunion.org).*

▼ *Delilah Drew (center) and her students*



Courtesy Delilah Drew

# Embracing Faith



Amelia Kern

▲ Tyler Kern

**TYLER KERN'S PASSION FOR FILMMAKING BEGAN WHEN HE WAS JUST THREE YEARS OLD.** He recalls, "My mother would always record me with her camcorder, and I loved being in front of and behind the camera." His early years of life were filled with creativity and discovery as he pieced together home movies, commercials and music videos.

Those years also contained a difficult journey with the church and God. He left the Seventh-day Adventist Church at a young age and struggled as his family split apart. A turning point came when his stepfather was diagnosed with colon cancer. The news devastated Tyler, leading him to voice frustration in the question, "Why did this have to happen to you?"

Tyler's stepfather replied, "Why not me? I lived a good life. I have a great relationship with God. I'd rather let someone else have more time to find that." The response deeply moved Tyler and began a spiritual transformation in his life, leading him back to the church and setting him on an entirely new path.

A few years later, Tyler found himself unexpectedly called to study in the

seminary at Andrews University. Although he had spent time pursuing his passion for filmmaking, he found himself continually brought back to God. He and his family moved to Berrien Springs and initially faced money, housing and timing challenges, but the Lord provided in unexpected and wonderful ways. Tyler emphasizes, "It's been amazing how God has continued to show me He will provide if I just trust and follow His lead."

After three years in the Seminary, Tyler is on track to graduate with a Master of Divinity and has big plans for the future. Combining his love of filmmaking with his drive to share God's message, he founded a film company called 7th Day Films. The business recently won first place at the Andrews University Pitch Competition and was awarded \$9,000 toward its vision.

Tyler strives to make movies that are grounded in God's love and are unafraid to address difficult topics. "I have a heart for the younger generations," he says. His vision is to "make films for everyone while remaining faithful to SDA doctrines." The first film in the works is a historical documentary, and Tyler hopes, someday, to produce a personal biopic titled "Why Not Me?," inspired by his stepfather's words and based on his own life journey.

As he explores this new platform and chapter in life, Tyler is embracing his faith. He looks forward to the future, reflecting, "I've learned to stop doing it my way and to lean into the Holy Spirit's leading in my life. That means trusting God in every step of the process." ■

*Isabella Koh, University Communication student writer*

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