

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2023



World Changers Made Here.
Andrews University



As I write this column, the tomato plants are climbing over their cages. The melon vines are sprawling wildly, leaving little space for the ripening cucumbers to roam. This is an idyllic time of year for me. It is a perfect opportunity to soak up lots of sun—which I understand is actually good to do as its effects are stored for the winter season ahead. Surrounded by the seasonal beauty, I revel in the company of avid gardeners who venture to rent 900 sq. ft. plots of land from Andrews University. Collectively we aspire to turn seeds into bounty.

I've learned so much from my neighbors in the garden and some deep lessons have taken root. One of those is that when you suspect that you may have failed, the gaze of wisdom reveals to you that it was instead just an opportunity to learn. Why didn't the beet seeds sprout? Why are the cabbage leaves not forming a tight curl? Why did a cucumber plant suddenly wilt and die? When you are dealing with nature, there

are no guarantees. There is also not a single successful person who does not have a long story to tell about the extreme failures they experienced on the road to that success.

But apart from receiving a lesson in perseverance, you know what I've come to appreciate most about this season of growth? It is amidst the calm and peace that I experience God. My heart overflows with awe, and my eyes are drawn to the beauty of my natural surroundings where butterflies and bees dart carefree. (We won't talk about the squash vine borers and Japanese beetles). With each breath, the stress of life melts away. I am astounded at how, surrounded by the Master's creation, I can experience a type of re-creation. I find myself praying, *Wonderful God, when we behold Your handiwork in nature, we can understand how You gazed upon the world that You had made and called it good. Thank You for the reminder of how blessed we are to live in Your garden. Amen.*

My prayer for you is that you, too, may take time to exhale and behold the beauty of our Lord.

Debbie

Debbie Michel

Lake Union HERALD

Official publication of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church/Lake Union Headquarters
lakeunionherald.org Vol. 115, No. 6

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | 269-473-8244
Publisher..... Ken Denslow, president@lakeunion.org
Editor/Managing Editor..... Debbie Michel, editor@lakeunion.org
Circulation/Back Pages Editor..... circulation@lakeunion.org
Comm. Asst. Director..... Felicia Tonga, felicia.tonga@lakeunion.org
Comm. Specialist..... Katie Fellows, katie.fellows@lakeunion.org
Art Direction/Design..... Robert Mason, masondesign@me.com
Proofreader..... Pat Spangler, spanglerp@andrews.edu

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

AdventHealth..... Julie Busch, Julie.Busch@AdventHealth.com
Andrews University..... Gillian Panigot, panigotg@andrews.edu
Illinois..... Nikki Quilatan, adminsecretary@ilcsda.org
Indiana..... Colleen Kelly, ckelly@indysda.org
Lake Region..... JeNeen Lendor, JLendor@lrcsda.com
Michigan..... Andy Im, aim@msda.org
Wisconsin..... Laurella Case, lcase@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | 269-473-8200
President..... Ken Denslow
Secretary..... Elden Ramirez
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LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

AdventHealth Great Lakes Region: Thor Thordarson, president/CEO, 5101 S. Willow Springs Rd., La Grange, IL 60525; 708-245-2211.

Andrews University: John Wesley Taylor V, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.

Illinois: John Grys, president; Michael Campos, executive secretary; Doug Reeves, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; 630-856-2850.

Indiana: Vic Van Schaik, president; Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer; street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.

Lake Region: Garth Gabriel, president; Abraham Henry, executive secretary; Kent M. Nichols, treasurer; 19860 South LaGrange Rd., Mokena, IL 60448; 773-846-2661.

Michigan: James Micheff Jr., president; Justin Ringstaff, secretary; Michael Bernard, treasurer; street address: 5801 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909; 517-316-1500.

Wisconsin: Titus Naftanaila, president; Amir Gulzar, secretary/treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River, WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932; 920-484-6555.

Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <https://www.lakeunionherald.org/about/writer-guidelines>.

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Member of Associated Church Press

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PHOTO: DANIEL BEDELL

COVER: CURTIS JOHNSON WITH AN EZEKIEL WHEELS PROTOTYPE CHAIR

COVER PHOTO: DARREN HESLOP **COVER DESIGN:** ELENNIE RAMIREZ

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

The Lake Union Herald (ISSN 0194-908X) is published monthly (except for January/February, June/July and November/December) by the Lake Union Conference, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Yearly subscription price is \$15.00. Vol. 115, No. 6. POSTMASTER: Send all address changes to: Lake Union Herald, P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

Note: If you are a member of a church in the Lake Union but are not receiving the Lake Union Herald, please request it through your church clerk or local conference secretary.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

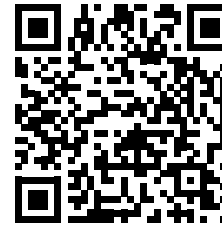
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Lake Union Herald office: 269-473-8244, Illinois: 630-716-3505, Indiana: 317-844-6201, Lake Region: 773-846-2661, Michigan: 517-316-1552, Wisconsin: 920-484-6555

Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$15 (per year) to P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.



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We Are Called to Fulfill Mission!

MISSION! AS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, WE ARE CALLED TO FULFILL MISSION. JESUS INSTRUCTED US TO “GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS” (MATTHEW 28:19–20). AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, THIS MISSION ASSIGNMENT PULSES THROUGH OUR VEINS, IGNITING OUR HEARTS AND PROPELLING US TO BECOME WORLD CHANGERS FOR GOD.



Darren Heslop

▲ JOHN WESLEY TAYLOR V

Throughout Andrews University’s rich history, our students, faculty, staff and alumni have answered this call with resounding enthusiasm, embracing their roles as ambassadors of hope who are called to offer transformation to a broken world. Andrews University has become a launchpad for impacting lives, whether it’s through local community service initiatives, courageous overseas missionary work or the profound influence we wield in our careers and daily encounters with one another.

At Andrews University we believe that each dimension and experience of learning can provide purpose and shape destiny, bringing into clearer focus God’s plans for our lives. We believe that each person is uniquely crafted by God with amazing talents and gifts for mission, and we strive to nurture those abilities to their fullest potential.

Our deep commitment to mission has been carefully guided over the years by the dedicated and visionary leadership of President Andrea Luxton and, before her, President Niels-Erik Andreasen.

It is a mission that is also sustained each day by our remarkable faculty, passionate staff and talented students who are making a difference in their disciplines. It is backed by our wide range of excellent academic programs and through professional

and student organizations. It is reinforced by the vibrant campus life that fosters meaningful connections and lifelong friendships. Also, through our strategic partnerships with sister institutions and organizations that span the globe, we continue to shape and inspire mission-focused leaders who are equipped to address the challenges and opportunities of an ever-changing world.

In the coming year, we will celebrate 150 years of writing a legacy that has redefined the world. We will celebrate and continue to follow in the footsteps of our namesake, J.N. Andrews, the trail-blazing missionary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who, with his family, formally began their lives of global service in 1874.

J.N. Andrews’ unwavering commitment to mission serves today as a shining beacon of inspiration. His dedication to serving others is reflected in the stories you will read here, which offer just a glimpse of the many dedicated people who represent our University family.

Meet, for example, Curtis Johnson, a visionary student who is developing a revolutionary wheelchair that empowers users to navigate in a straight line with one hand. Be inspired by the ingenuity and dedication of students Gloria Oh, Ariana Dice and

“Together let us embrace our mission to Change the World and leave an indelible mark that testifies to the power of God’s love in our lives.”

Sarah Wolf, who are creating refill stations for soap and detergents, embodying the spirit of sustainability and stewardship.

Embark on a journey with Josalynn Clark as she creates a free summer camp for children in the Bronx that nurtures young hearts with hope. Witness the transformative work that seeks to support and uplift Syrian refugees at the Adventist Learning Center in Lebanon that is being pursued by Maci Chen and Naissa N’diaye, students placed there by our International Center for Trauma Education & Care.

Delve into the remarkable story of Floribert Kubwayezu, a distance learning student who earned his master’s degree in international development while providing vital humanitarian aid in Burundi. Immerse yourself in the spiritual mission of our Center for Faith Engagement, where authentic conversations bridge the gaps that often separate us, as Andrews University students lead the way through the captivating podcast “In Passing.”

In these stories and countless others, I believe that you will find the kindling for your own transformative journey. I pray that you will let these stories and these students’ examples ignite the fire within you to **Change the World** around us.

At Andrews University, we offer more than simply an outstanding academic education. Here, our students also thrive spiritually, socially and physically. Through immersive classes, service opportunities and the relationships students forge with fellow students, staff and faculty, we consistently cultivate a whole-person development that extends far beyond the boundaries of our campus. The impact of each one of these life-changing relationships continues to mentor and shape our graduates as they, in turn, seek to impact and **Change the World** in tangible and meaningful ways.

In essence, an education at Andrews University is a lifetime investment in mission, in fulfilling our divine purpose.

As the new president of this extraordinary and life-changing institution, I am humbled by the

privilege to serve alongside the remarkable leaders, faculty and staff of Andrews University. I ask for your prayers as we move forward in our continuing goal to inspire and grow hearts and minds that will **Seek Knowledge** from Him who is the Source of all truth; as our students **Affirm Faith** and define their place in a world marred by sin but brimming with the hope found in Jesus; and as our students, faculty and staff all unite together in shared mission to **Change the World** for God.

If you, or someone you know, yearns to develop a life filled with meaning and purpose, to discover new horizons and deep life experiences, and to seize incredible opportunities that are centered in God’s plans for our lives, I extend an invitation: please join us on an inspiring and transformative journey as we advance the frontiers of learning, faith and Christian service.

Together let us embrace our mission to **Change the World** and leave an indelible mark that testifies to the power of God’s love in our lives. ■

John Wesley Taylor V is the president of Andrews University.



Martin Lee

What to Expect as Children Transition to Young Adults



▲ MELISSA PONCE-RODAS

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FAMILY LIFE AREN'T TERMS THAT ARE USUALLY USED TOGETHER. IN THE U.S., MANY OFTEN SEE COLLEGE AS A TIME OF INDIVIDUAL GROWTH AND INDEPENDENCE FROM ONE'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

However, after more than 15 years of teaching college students, I can attest that this is one of the most common, non-academic conversations I have with my students. The reason conversations about family happen so often is because when a student goes to college the entire family system changes, yet most families aren't discussing this with each other. But having this opportunity to explore these issues with students is one of the things I love about my job. We usually end up with more questions than answers but that leaves them with some "things to think about" with their family members. Here are a few of the most common issues that arise, and hopefully, they can stir some conversations in your own homes, families or churches as this new school year begins.

The first thing to note is that the structure of the family has changed. Whether formalized or not, everyone plays a role in each family. Now that the college student is not living at home most of the time, the people who remain must adapt to a new structure (e.g., who is the oldest child now), as does the college student in a new environment. But what happens when the student returns for break? If we don't realize these changes are happening, and we don't talk about them, they are likely to cause some concerns. So, start the conversations and make some plans to adjust. And if at first you don't succeed, try again!

Family roles also change during this time. This includes responsibilities at home (who takes the dog

for a walk) and responsibilities at college. For students, there may be a different curfew, no one to ask for permission to go out, no one to help with laundry or preparing meals, but a need to work more and pay bills. With these changes, what happens when they return home for vacations? Do they ask permission for everything? Are they expected at the dinner table every night? Not only are the students changing and learning, but so are the parents, siblings and maybe even extended family members. Again, this change is normal and healthy, but we need to acknowledge it and talk about it.

Being proactive about change in families helps everyone to better understand family life and many of the unwritten rules that come with it. When we find the structures and patterns that work for us (note that I didn't give answers to the questions I raised above because they will vary and there is no "right" answer for everyone), our families are healthier and stronger. The one constant in life is change, but Ecclesiastes reminds us that, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Welcome to a new season, and our prayer is that it is one of joy and blessings! ■

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



Keeping Your Emotions in Check

A LOT OF MY WORK IS HELPING PEOPLE DEAL WITH THEIR EMOTIONS. BIG FEELINGS ARE HARD. THIS MAY SOUND LIKE I WORK MAINLY WITH CHILDREN, BUT I DON'T. I WORK PRIMARILY WITH ADULT MEN!



▲ BRAD HINMAN

Ephesians 4:26 and 29 tells us that “In your anger do not sin ... Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” These two verses, and many others, admonish us to control our emotions especially when our inclination is to lash out in anger when we feel strong emotions. People who verbally attack others, or worse yet, try to control others, or punish people who they think are not good enough, would be described as lacking emotional intelligence.

Emotional intelligence comes from having emotional awareness of how our actions affect others and us. If, for example, you see a brother doing something in his own home or on his own property that you don't like, the Bible admonishes us to go to that brother and discuss that with them directly. We are not to sneak around and try to get that person in trouble, when really our brother's actions are none of our business. People with emotional intelligence are able to regulate their emotions and not act impulsively to cause damage to themselves and others.

This is called emotion regulation. This is a term that means having the ability to effectively manage and process an emotional experience while avoiding the urge to lash out verbally or physically, but rather we use emotion regulation strategies to cope with situations where we see, read or hear something that we interpret as making us angry. What would be most helpful is first to ask ourselves, why is something that someone else is doing any of my concern? This reminds me of Rotary International's

Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do. If I talk to others about this, is what I will say about this person the truth? Would it be fair for me to talk to others about this without my brother present? Is my telling others about this person's actions going to be helpful to all concerned? And finally, would the way I am expressing my big emotions benefit everyone in this situation or just myself?

Our emotions are complicated, I get it. But dealing with them in the wrong way often makes things worse for us and others. It can be difficult for us to counteract our base, sinful nature which encourages us to attack someone verbally for not expressing their autonomy the way we think they should. We will be much more well-adjusted if we allow ourselves to work on our own emotional regulation, rather than trying to regulate others to fit our image of them. ■



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.

Brad Hinman, LPC, LMFT, AASECT Certified Sex Therapist, is director of Hinman Counseling Services and assistant professor of counselor education in the Andrews University School of Graduate Psychology & Counseling.

Bravery in the Face of Opposition



▲ DENIS KAISER

HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT MANY PEOPLE SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO YOU IN CHURCH MAY HAVE THE MOST AMAZING STORY TO TELL OF HOW THEY FOUND JESUS? AND YET, WHY DO WE NEVER ASK THEM? I BELIEVE THAT MANY WOULD LOVE TO TELL THEIR STORY, AND WE WOULD BE AMAZED WHAT GOD HAS WROUGHT IN THEIR LIVES.

A couple years ago, I read a letter that Ellen White sent to her three sons, Henry, Edson and Willie, in March 1861 (Lt 3, 1861). In her letter, she devoted almost an entire paragraph to the story of Maria Perry West (age 39) and her husband Charles H. West (age 40), a couple from Lisbon, Iowa, who she had met at a conference in nearby Marion, Iowa. A year earlier Ellen and James White had visited Lisbon and convinced Maria, then a Universalist believer, of the biblical foundation of the Seventh-day Adventist message. Maria decided to join the church although “her husband opposed her much.” Ellen White noted that at one point, he, “while intoxicated [with alcohol], presented to her head a loaded pistol, but the Lord has kept her from being harmed.” Maria continued to follow her conviction and it appears her example had a positive influence on her husband. By February 1861, “this violent man was thoroughly converted.” His appetite for liquor had disappeared and “his bloated appearance ha[d] changed.” He looked “like a quiet, pleasant man” now.

Maria remained “a firm believer in the third angel’s message” and a faithful member of the church until her death in 1895, yet her husband Charles apparently never fully joined her faith. They separated in the summer of 1870, and while the four older children (all teenagers) appeared to stay with him, she cared for the two younger children (below the age of 10). Maybe some looked at her as

a single mother without a life or story of her own. Although Maria and Charles were buried in different places, her gravestone states that she had been the “wife of C.H. West.”¹ Of course, there is far more about their story that we can no longer uncover, yet Ellen White’s report to her sons preserved a piece of Maria’s bravery and unyielding faith.

We may sometimes look at those around us, unintentionally presuming we know everything there is to know about them. Examples like the above show me, however, that there is more to know. Next time we may ask them, “How did you find Jesus?” ■

1. F.J. Dunn, “Obituary: Maria P. West,” *Review and Herald*, May 7, 1895, 303; 1860, 1870 and 1880, U.S. censuses and cemetery records for Charles West and Maria West.

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



Intentando grandes cosas para Dios

CUANDO ASISTÍ AL SEMINARIO ADVENTISTA TOMÉ UN CURSO SOBRE HISTORIA DE LA IGLESIA. ESTE TENÍA COMO REQUISITO INVESTIGAR LA HISTORIA EN FUENTES PRIMARIAS. RESULTA MUY INTERESANTE LEER LOS RELATOS DIRECTAMENTE EN LAS FUENTES PRIMARIAS PORQUE UNO PUEDE CAPTAR LA ACTITUD DE LOS AUTORES.



▲ CARMELO MERCADO

La historia de la Iglesia Central Hispana de Chicago es algo singular ya que es la primera iglesia hispana que se organizó en nuestra Unión. En el sitio web *Adventist Archives* hay un artículo que fue publicado en el *Lake Union Herald* titulado *Attempting Great Things for God*. En ese artículo, el pastor José Rivera cuenta que en el año 1944 cuando fue nombrado pastor de esa congregación, había solamente doce personas. El primer sábado el pastor desafió a los miembros a “intentar grandes cosas para Dios”. El pequeño grupo se dedicó a orar, ayunar, planear y trabajar. Comenzó un programa radial que se transmitía cada domingo y distribuyó revistas en español a doscientos hogares. Luego, hicieron planes de distribuir diez mil folletos en preparación para una campaña evangelística con el propósito de plantar una segunda nueva congregación.

Doy gracias a Dios que ese mismo deseo de plantar iglesias continúa todavía en la Iglesia Central Hispana de Chicago. Tuve el privilegio de visitar esta iglesia el sábado 15 de julio de este año para celebrar la organización de una nueva iglesia llamada *2nd Generation*. En el verano del año 2015, en una reunión de la junta de iglesia, el pastor Luis Equiluz manifestó el deseo de la Asociación de saber qué iglesias estarían interesadas en plantar una nueva iglesia. Al concluir la reunión, el hermano Luis Colón se acercó al Pastor Equiluz y le habló de su sueño de plantar una iglesia de habla inglesa; el pastor no se hizo esperar y le compartió todo lo necesario para comenzar el proceso.

El 8 de agosto de 2015 un grupo de miembros muy dedicados tuvo su primera reunión donde se votó usar las palabras *2nd Generation* como el nombre de la iglesia. El 28 de noviembre de 2015 el grupo celebró el primer culto de adoración con el tema “Cree en los milagros”. A pesar que algunos de los líderes llevaban responsabilidades en las dos congregaciones, trabajaron con mucho empeño para hacer crecer el nuevo grupo. Ofrecieron programas de salud, realizaron nuevas iniciativas de oración, llevaron a cabo actividades comunitarias y hasta realizaron una campaña evangelística. La nueva congregación creció a tal punto que en el mes de octubre de 2020 se la denominó “compañía” y en el mes de febrero de 2023 recibió la aprobación para ser organizada como iglesia.

Me maravillo al ver el espíritu misionero de una iglesia hispana plantando una iglesia de habla inglesa. Mi oración es que este espíritu de “intentar grandes cosas para Dios” se extienda a cada hermano y a cada pastor en nuestra Unión. ■

Carmelo Mercado es el vicepresidente de la Unión del Lago.



▲ Miembros y visitas en la organización de la Iglesia 2nd Generation

Stories With a Purpose

IN 2022, THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR FAITH ENGAGEMENT LAUNCHED “IN PASSING,” A PODCAST THAT AIMED TO SPARK A SENSE OF INTIMACY WITH GOD BY UNCOVERING THE BEAUTY OF HUMANITY THROUGH STORIES OF STUDENTS AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.

▼ Season 1 of “In Passing” was hosted by Kendra Miranda (center) with co-hosts Isaac Peterson (left) and Raabe Garcia (right).

The podcast was hosted by Kendra Miranda with co-hosts Isaac Peterson and Raabe Garcia, all Andrews students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. In March of that year, during their first “In Passing” episode, Kendra, Isaac and Raabe explained that as they made plans for the podcast, the title came naturally.

Raabe said, “We were thinking about ‘What’s the thing that happens every day when you go to a place?’ You pass by so many people. And the reality is we don’t get enough time to actually sit down and talk with them ... this [podcast] is a space where we don’t have to just pass by quickly, but we can take some time to get to know each other.”

In further explaining the goals and mission of the podcast, Kendra noted the story of the blind beggar in Luke 18, where Jesus was just passing by—but He healed the man. He passed by with intention. Kendra said, “We’re wanting to dive into the reality that we can pass by people with intention. With purpose. With expectation. With confidence ... it’s not a bad thing to pass by. It’s just where our hearts are at and what we’re doing with that passing by. Jesus was someone who passed by, and He passed by in the most beautiful ways that were life-changing to the people around Him. And we are here to do the same.”

Throughout season 1, each episode focused on the theme of “seasons.” The team wanted to inspire community, change and relationships and help individuals recognize that no matter the season of life, good or bad, no one has to navigate a situation alone. Student guests spoke to belonging, finding purpose and success, times of questioning and transition, developing confidence and moving forward.

Prescott Khair, associate chaplain for the Center for Faith Engagement, worked with the podcast hosts. He says, “In the times we live, it is easy to forget that our individual stories can create moments of shared connection. Season one of the



Photo courtesy: Center for Faith Engagement

'In Passing' podcast served as a space where students could share about the season in which they probed the larger questions of life and transitions into young adulthood. As an office dedicated to the faith engagement of our campus community, this provided one more opportunity for our students to express and share how their faith played a significant role in these moments. Storytelling is part of Andrews University's strategic focus, as well, and this was one way we operationalized it on the student level."

During the 2022–2023 school year, the role of podcast host was picked up by Angel Pereira, a Master of Divinity student in his last year at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. Angel had made it his mission to get to know people on campus—he served as an administrative pastor for New Life Fellowship and hosted the campus Talent Show and banquets. When he heard of the "In Passing" host opening, he thought, "What better way to get to know more people?"

Angel met with Chaplain Prescott to brainstorm the year's theme. They recognized that college is a time of growth through transition for all students, as some are moving from high school to university and others are finishing their schooling and moving into adulthood and the "real world." They settled on the idea of "growth in the gray areas."

Angel and producer Isaí Ramirez developed a long list of student guests. Angel says, "I interviewed a group of friends who had been friends from freshman year to senior year. That was probably one of the most-listened to episodes as they talked about how rare it is to have the same group of friends for so long. I interviewed an ex-military Buddhist about being at Andrews as a non-Adventist. God really put people in my path."

It was evident, too, that God was not only guiding who to feature on the podcast but how conversations would develop. Angel saw shy students step out of their comfort zone and genuinely be themselves. He also recalls an episode where he talked with a friend who was at a spot in her relationship with God where she was questioning a lot. "When I asked her to be on the podcast, she agreed but said she may not say the nicest things about God,"

he says. "She ended up not saying a single thing that was controversial. We just had a conversation about life and where she is on her journey. She said she came into the process with a bad attitude and thought she'd take the opportunity to express her anger toward God but it never came out."

As intended, the podcast setting provided a safe space for community. And Angel recognized his own personal growth as a result—in seeing God's leading but also in developing skills as a conversationalist with a purpose. "It was wonderful," he says.

"Andrews University's Center for Faith Engagement is committed to providing opportunities and spaces for students to engage with faith in meaningful ways. The 'In Passing' podcast represents one such student-led opportunity," says Prescott. "The equipment and studio will remain available for other students to engage in telling the stories of faith and community. As an office we remain wholly committed to inspiring resilient disciples of God, and telling stories of faith through digital media is just one avenue we have to make that mission a tangible reality." ■

Gillian Panigot is communication manager & FOCUS editor in the Office of University Communication, Andrews University.



Photo courtesy Angel Pereira

▲ Season 2 of "In Passing" was hosted by Angel Pereira.

Distance Learning: Serving Those Who Serve

HIGHER EDUCATION USED TO LOOK JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER LEVEL OF EDUCATION: STUDENTS IN A CLASSROOM, LISTENING TO A PROFESSOR LECTURE. TODAY, THANKS TO ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND IMPROVED MASS TRANSPORTATION, HIGHER EDUCATION CAN HAPPEN IN A VARIETY OF WAYS—OR IN MULTIPLE WAYS SIMULTANEOUSLY.

Such was the case for Floribert Kubwayezu when he signed up for the Master of International Development Administration (MIDA) program through Andrews University.

“MIDA is based on a blended learning model,” explains Glynis Bradfield, director of adult and online student services for the School of Distance Education at Andrews University. “There are three distinct parts to this method: reading ahead; meeting in person; working independently and submitting projects online.”

While living in Burundi and working for World Vision, Floribert traveled periodically to meet with his cohort onsite at affiliated campuses in South Africa, Kenya and Togo. The ten-day in-person sessions were intense but meaningful. In this way, Floribert and his cohort studied cultural and development anthropology, ethics in development, public policy, organizational behavior and leadership, applied statistical methods, risk management and resilience, and much more.

“I’ve been working as a humanitarian in Burundi for more than ten years,” Floribert says. “The MIDA program was related to what I was already doing and was exactly what I needed in my career. Being able to meet and have discussions with others in related fields of work was incredibly rewarding for me personally and professionally.”

MIDA, which has now been restructured into the Community & International Development Program (MSCID), is a graduate-level program focused on enhancing the skill sets of those working in or

interested in working in community and/or international development relief. The recent restructure of the program incorporates a local component, preparing students to serve in their own communities as well as abroad.

For Floribert, the challenge came when, due to circumstances beyond anyone’s control, his cohort had to shift to being fully online.

“He had not signed up for a fully online program,” Glynis points out, “so he wasn’t equipped to be successful.”

With less than 6 percent of the population of Burundi having access to the internet¹, and those who do experiencing slow, weak connections, Floribert, along with most of his cohort, was stuck.

“Typically students who enroll in online courses do so with the necessary tools,” Glynis says. “Then we provide proactive online communication to move students forward as though we were connected face-to-face. Floribert was not set up to make online courses work, so we had to be creative in how we got him to the finish line.”

Their approach worked, and Floribert was able to travel to the U.S. to receive his degree at graduation on the Michigan campus in May 2023. Despite the challenges he faced, Floribert says his Andrews education has already proven invaluable.

“My work is centered around humanitarian development and peace-building,” Floribert says. “The Andrews International Development program not only further strengthened the skills I was already using—such as writing proposals, project

cycles and needs assessments—but also gave me additional skills to further my contribution to humanitarian efforts in my country.”

Floribert also points out that the American approach to education differed greatly from what he was used to and feels the collaborative cohort model significantly advanced the depth and breadth of his graduate learning experience. Glynis, who completed undergraduate study in Africa and a master’s at Andrews, concurs.

“There are many good qualities about the African approach to education,” she explains. “You’re pushed to perform and there’s much more structure and rigor. There is not, however, much thought to inclusion. The system favors those who excel and does not always cater to the margins.”

This, Glynis says, is where Andrews University’s focus on whole person development comes into play.

“Our graduate programs reflect the Adventist model of mentoring relationships, expecting each person to bring to the learning environment knowledge that’s worthy of sharing and learning together,” she expounds. “The MIDA program was designed for students who are leaders in their fields and looking for training to be more effective and efficient at what they already do well.”

This was something Floribert specifically noted about his Andrews experience.

“The instructors focus on our success,” he says. “Even as we communicate mostly at a distance, they notice when something is amiss and ask us how they can help. You don’t just receive an education, you also participate in the education of others, including your instructors. I appreciated that a lot.”

Though the interactive, applied learning approach is very common in American graduate programs, what sets Andrews apart is its integration of faith and learning.

“Everything always came back around to faith,” recalls Floribert. “Every course introduction applied biblical perspectives and Christian ethics, and every class period began with prayer. It was everything important in life combined into one program.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a global mission—some would call it a mandate—to serve. Andrews University’s distance learning program makes it possible for more people in more places to train to better change their world.

“The church needs people serving where they are,” Glynis says. “They can’t leave their jobs for school; they need to study and apply their learning at a slower rate of completion but a greater rate of application. That’s what Andrews’ online programs provide.”

Though Floribert’s contract with World Vision has now ended, he is optimistic that his new MIDA degree from Andrews University will garner him an even better job through which he can do even more work toward building peace in his country.

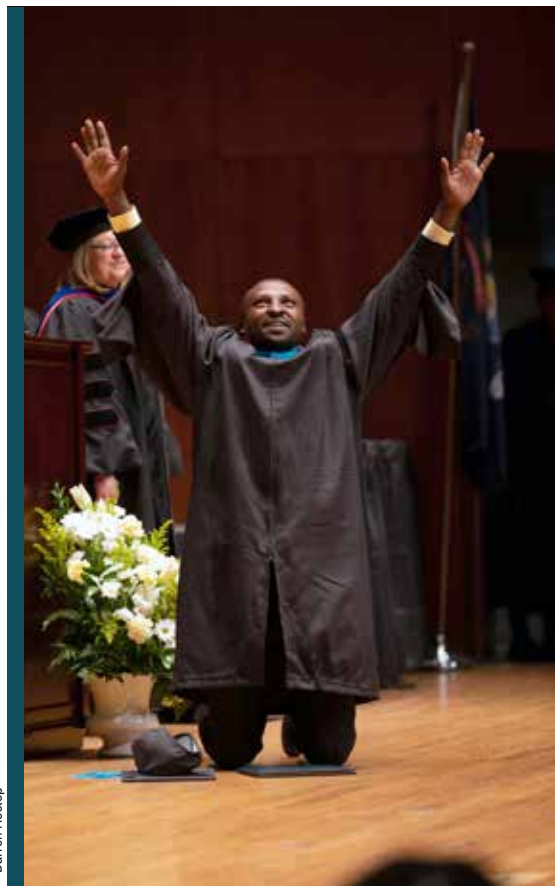
“Andrews has expanded my potential,” he says. Based on the skills he learned at Andrews University, Floribert is now open to different sectors of work he could not consider before, such as administration, finance, programming and child protection. “It’s not hard to see why we in Burundi—and many other parts of the world—need access to programs like this. I am very lucky to have had this experience, and I want many others to have it, too.”

Distance learning may have its challenges, but its value far surpasses them. And regardless of where students are learning, they are all part of the Andrews family.

“Our goal is to help students learn at a distance without feeling distanced,” Glynis says. “We try very hard to create community even online, and we mean what our website says: ‘Because life keeps going, we go where you go.’ This is how we serve those who are serving the world.”

¹ Central Intelligence Agency. (2023, May 16). Burundi. Central Intelligence Agency. <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/burundi/#communications>

Becky St. Clair is a freelance writer and editor in Angwin, California.



Darren Heslop



Darren Heslop

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO

change the world

BY ISABELLA KOH

This past spring, Andrews University students were given a unique opportunity to demonstrate the combination of their interests, academic knowledge and creative ideas. At the second annual Pitch Competition, held during Innovation Week, students presented original business ideas for the chance to win awards in support of their projects. As a result, many of those who participated were empowered to positively impact the communities around them. Here are some of the stories of how Andrews students have found innovative ways to “Change the World.”

Engineering, to Curtis Johnson, is something that runs in the family. He followed in both his father's and grandfather's footsteps when he began studying at Andrews and affirms, "It's very intuitive to me. I loved all the stuff we were learning about."

Over his academic career, Curtis worked on several different projects, developing everything from bike glasses with rearview mirrors to automated welders. At the end of his senior year, he turned his attention to a special ongoing project created by his dad, Curt: Ezekiel Wheels.

Curt, who frequently visits manufacturing sites for his job, encountered several workers in wheelchairs who faced challenges due to the maneuverability of mass-market chairs. Primarily, the necessity of pushing both wheels at the same time decreased the workers' range of mobility and flexibility—it could be difficult to carry a box and operate their chair at the same time, for instance.

Curt recognized there was an opportunity to enhance the typical wheelchair experience and make users' lives easier. He built a prototype that helps individuals manipulate both wheels on a non-electric wheelchair with one hand—an inner ring allows both wheels to be driven straight forward from one side.

The name "Ezekiel Wheels" stems from the biblical Ezekiel's vision of a wheel within a wheel, serving as both a literal reference to the project design, as well as an opportunity to witness to others about God. Encouraging feedback was received on the first prototype, but the project was put on hold for several years due to a lack of funding.

When Curtis learned about a Pitch Competition at Andrews University, he realized it was an opportunity to revive the project. His mechanical engineering skills allowed him to help with the computer-aided design (CAD) portions of the original prototype. He worked on cataloging parts, minimizing waste, and streamlining



Darren Heslop

machining time. In the midst of midterms, he put together a presentation for the competition and presented it to the panel of judges. "[It was] a chance to show it to a wide audience and get their support and opinions, and potential investments," he explains.

The father-son team's hard work paid off when Ezekiel Wheels earned third place in the Pitch Competition, along with a Social Innovation Award. The project received a total of \$10,000 in funding, along with other in-kind services. "That \$10,000 is going to allow us to purchase our initial 200 kits," Curtis relates. "That's a massive investment for me, coming out of college. And there's potential to help a lot of people."

After purchasing the initial parts, Curtis will be connected with Benton Harbor community members in wheelchairs to learn how to customize the kits to different sizes of chairs.

He notes, "The Pitch Competition was a big encouragement. I'm not a great presenter. It's not something I practice a lot. But just the way people responded—all the people we talked to were super encouraging. I think it was a pretty clear sign from God that He wants us to pursue this and take it to the next step."

Curtis graduated from Andrews in May and now plans on pursuing a traditional career in the engineering field. He also looks forward to future developments of Ezekiel Wheels, which he has turned into an LLC. As the next steps of his career and new company progress, he expresses, "God's going to be in control of what happens, so I will let it happen."



Photo courtesy Josalynn Clark

From a very young age, Josalynn Clark knew she had a passion for ministry. Growing up in the Bronx, New York, she was deeply involved in Pathfinders, leading out in Adventist Youth (AY) programs and actively helping out her church, finding a sense of connection and spiritual grounding in each.

During the summer of 2020, Josalynn realized that COVID had deeply impacted the youth in her church. Lacking regular meetings and support, many individuals were struggling mentally and emotionally. With the help of her mom and sister, she created the “Youth Discipleship Mission: Bible Mentorship Program” to bridge the gap that the pandemic had created. The new virtual program partnered kids and teenagers with adult mentors in the church, setting up regular meetings, programs and check-ins. “We wanted to, as mentors and leaders, help build the church of tomorrow through mentorship,” she explains.

The program was a success, and the following year Josalynn sought to turn it into a free summer day camp program. Through fundraising, community involvement and a grant, she overcame several challenges and put together a six-week experience for over 30 kids. The program was based on her own unique Bible-based curriculum, which included an emphasis on spiritual mentoring and provided interactive lessons, presentations and trips for the attendees.

In the fall of 2021, Josalynn decided to pursue an online Master of Divinity at the Seventh-day

Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University with a concentration in Youth and Young Adult Ministry. At the same time, over the following year, she continued to run the growing camp program, even in the face of financial struggles. She saw God’s presence more times than she could count through small miracles and donations in times of need. Many times, community members and parents stepped in to help with activities, outings and creative endeavors. “God really pushed us to make it last summer,” she affirms.

As she considered her next steps, Josalynn found out about the Pitch Competition through her program at Andrews. It offered the opportunity to expand and share about her ministry but required her to visit campus in-person to present. After praying about the opportunity, she took a leap of faith and drove two back-to-back 12-hour road trips to and from Michigan for the semifinals and finals. “When I presented originally, I was very nervous,” she recalls. “But then I became more comfortable because I was presenting and talking about my kids. That gave me confidence. I was just telling people why I love my kids and what makes them so great.”

Her mission to help her kids earned the “Youth Discipleship Mission” first place in the Pitch Competition. The news shocked and inspired Josalynn, who plans to use the award money to fund future camp sessions, as well as strengthen the program’s documentation. She hopes to turn the ministry into a nonprofit organization and eventually obtain her own building so that she can run a year-round program for the kids. “It’s been a very great, very rewarding experience,” she enthuses. “I wholeheartedly enjoy what I do.”



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"Refill to Reduce" was the motto of student innovators Gloria Oh, Ariana Coast and Sarah Wolf as they entered the Pitch Competition. The team members, who all served as officers of Biophilia, the Biology club at Andrews, had utilized their positions as student leaders to promote an appreciation for nature and its inhabitants. Sharing a commitment to sustainability, the group set out to address a major issue that they identified not only on the Andrews University campus but also in the larger community.

"In the U.S. alone, over 550 million shampoo bottles are used per year," the team relates. "Despite this, the national average for recycling those plastics is only 3–5 percent. Michigan's recycling rate is less than half the national average." In addition to these statistics, they also realized that a lack of access to affordable care items on campus, especially for those without cars, made sustainability even more difficult. "The combination of Michigan's low recycling rate and the limited accessibility/affordability of basic necessities like soap and detergent for students without cars creates a real problem."

Their solution to that problem was to create an on-campus refillery. They elaborate, "A refillery is a place in the community where you bring your own bottles or borrow empty containers on-site and fill them up with your basic necessities. In this model, you only pay for the product of your choice within your container and not the bottle." The simple system allows customers to reuse

plastic containers to their full capacity and, in doing so, reduces waste. A refillery promotes sustainability, is an affordable alternative for consumers, and could be accessible to both the campus and community members.

For their commitment to making community-specific change, the project was awarded fourth place in the Pitch Competition and received a Social Innovation Award. "It's about practicing a sustainable lifestyle for everyone—the environment, the animals and the people," the team explains. "We believe innovation has to be sustainable, and a sustainable change always involves a change in someone's life. We are excited to make such a change by creating a place where people can experience a low-waste lifestyle!"

The team's future goals include opening the Refillery at Andrews in the fall and allowing students to gain exposure to the system. They also plan to provide seasonal incentives and create an aesthetic space that is clean and eco-friendly in design. In order to familiarize people with the process, part of their marketing strategy includes incorporating feedback they received from an online community survey. The project will eventually be turned into a nonprofit that focuses on benefiting students and spreading environmental awareness.

"As Christians, we believe we are called to be caretakers of the earth and to help those in need," they affirm. "Our goal is to reflect those ideals as we find solutions for students and community members alike to make a difference in the world, one bottle at a time." ■

Isabella Koh is a University Communication student writer at Andrews University.



Learning at a Deeper Level

During the 2022–2023 school year, the Andrews University International Center for Trauma Education & Care placed two Andrews students at the Bourj Hammoud Adventist Learning Center (ALC) in Beirut, Lebanon, to work with Syrian refugee children.

Naissa N'diaye and Maci Chen created a trauma-informed care culture at the school; provided a safe space for students and teachers to express their needs and concerns; taught coping skills, behavioral management and classroom strategies; and gave space for all involved to tell their stories.

At the same time, Naissa and Maci were hugely impacted, not only because they had opportunity to practice what they learned in school but because the ALC staff, students and families enriched Naissa's and Maci's worldviews—highlighting what is really important in life and showing the true meaning of unconditional love.

My name is Naissa N'diaye.

I was born in Ivory Coast, but my family is from various parts of West Africa. When I was 7 years old, my parents moved, and I grew up in different parts of West Africa, Central Africa and East Africa. Moving so much as a child opened my mind to the beauty of the world and the nuances of cultures and individuals.

After graduating from high school in Kenya, I started working for an NGO, thinking that I wanted to work in the field of international development. I learned that the scope of human suffering was far greater than I could wrap my head around, and I longed to be with people instead of behind a desk looking at numbers. Although the work was essential and necessary, I wanted more, so I decided to study social work. After prayers and research, I ended up at Middle East University (MEU) in Lebanon. There, I was able to be involved in service projects for refugees. The work was rewarding, and the people I met were genuine and kind. I knew social work was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. God was in those spaces, and I wanted to be working with Him as His hands and feet. During that first year, I learned about the Adventist Learning Center (ALC) and the amazing work that has been done in providing education for children.

I left for Andrews in the fall of 2017 and started my journey to become a social worker. I loved everything I learned and saw how it changed people's lives in a tangible way. I met a lot of great, God-fearing people who

inspired me to not be afraid to do unconventional things. I learned to trust the route that God had for me and decided to spend a year in Mauritania, serving with ADRA. My time there, although cut short by the pandemic, furthered my love for God and His mission. I came back to Andrews in 2020, continued my undergraduate degree and proceeded to do my master's. Every now and then, my heart returned to my time in Lebanon, and as I neared the end of my graduate program, I knew God was leading me there.

From the moment we arrived in Lebanon, Maci and I knew we were right where we were supposed to be. Not everything was easy, but there was a continuous peace over me, regardless of the circumstances that arose. My work at ALC involved doing counseling with children and their families and working alongside teachers to implement trauma-informed strategies. There were crises on different scales that we had to navigate, but our main work was to be a safe space for the children and

▼ Naissa N'diaye felt called to work at the Adventist Learning Center (ALC) providing education for children.



► Naïssa N'diaye enjoyed time outdoors with some of the fourth graders during their lunch/free time.



Maci Chen

staff of ALC. I believe we were able to create an environment of trust that allowed many people to safely share their hearts, experiences and stories. Although the journey of healing is long, I believe we were able to help them either to begin that journey or continue deeper in it.

One of the most impactful moments from the experience showed me how the power of presence can impact someone's life. I remember meeting with a teacher and, after 30 minutes of telling me what was troubling her and crying, she said, "You are the best thing that has happened to me and this school this year." My prayer every day going to ALC

was to let God's presence do the work through me. This experience, and many others like these, taught me that as long as we have God on our side, there is nothing so big that He can't solve it. As humans, it is our role to walk alongside people who are broken-hearted and give them hope so that they can see the hand of God in their lives. My hope for the future is to continue working with refugee populations, no matter how near or far. Although I would love to continue working in Lebanon, I desire above all to be where God wants me to be and for His presence to move in those spaces.

My name is Maci Chen.

I grew up in Berrien Springs before my family moved out to sunny California, so I consider Andrews my home away from home. I began studying social work my freshman year at La Sierra University and knew that it was a good field for me because I truly enjoyed all of my classes and loved the versatility and diversity within the field. My sophomore year of college, I returned to Berrien Springs to attend Andrews, and I am finally graduating with my master's in social work. I have truly appreciated the spiritual life on the Andrews campus and connecting with the students, faculty and staff who make the University what it is.

In 2022, my fellow social work student and friend, Naïssa, convinced me to move across the ocean with her to work at the Adventist Learning Center (ALC) for my master's internship. Personally,

I love learning about new cultures and everything they have to offer, and I think the best way to do that is to be fully immersed. Recognizing the amazing opportunity this would be, I agreed, and we set off together at the end of August.

Working at ALC was a totally new and growing experience. We dealt with a lot of difficult situations, but we also got to work with some of the most resilient people I've ever met—individuals, including children, who were subject to daily abuse; who struggled with access to clean water, electricity, education, food and medical services; who experienced ever-present discrimination; and whose wages don't meet living expenses. Despite these circumstances, I heard these children and parents laugh the loudest, pour out words of encouragement, find joy in the little things and have hope in the future in powerful ways.



Photo courtesy Maci Chen

▲ Maci Chen (second from left) ran a psychoeducation/support group for some of the Kurdish ALC mothers.



Hala

As the first social workers at this learning center, we had a lot of opportunities to create and design interventions that met specific needs we saw. Our work, guided by our on-site supervisor, included a weekly Nurture Group for 7th and 8th grade students, morning classroom worships, after-school homework help for students, Learning Disability Center appointments and resources, in-home visitations, one-on-one counseling and family sessions, parent support/psychoeducation groups, classroom check-ins, individual meetings and in-class support for teachers, and social work moments in staff meetings and trainings.

There were so many things that touched me personally and ways that I saw God through these individuals. One instance in particular stands out to me. Naissa and I were doing a home visit with a family who had six children, two of whom went to ALC. On this particular day, there was a lot of tension in the household, and we were there as a supportive and calming presence. We had arrived in the afternoon and had stayed into their lunchtime, so they cooked a meal for everyone while we were there. They brought out a bag of bread and one big round tray of a potato and vegetable dish for all of them to share. Then they brought us separate plates full of food and our own huge pieces of bread. It was such

a generous amount compared to what they were all sharing together. As we kept on talking, I realized they had just fed us with the last of what they would have eaten for their next meal. I was astounded and shocked, immediately reminded of the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. This story, which incredibly took place an hour from where this family lives, displays overwhelming generous hospitality and unwavering faith—attributes that I experienced from this family in a truly tangible way. I couldn't believe that they had given us what little they had without mention or hesitation. They, and so many others, truly showed me what God's heart looks like. Through their selflessness, I learned at a much deeper level what true faith and generosity look like.

These moments, and many other instances, had a profound impact on me as I saw God working through ALC and its impact on the students and families there. One of my biggest hopes in working with each person was that, despite our differences, they were able to tangibly feel and understand God's love to the same degree that they shared it, knowingly or unknowingly, with us.

Naissa N'diaye and **Maci Chen** both completed a Master of Social Work at the Andrews University School of Social Work.

▲ **Maci Chen** (right) participated in a morning worship where the sixth graders created letters to themselves using words describing who God says they are.

Hospitals Rework Cafeteria Menus to Offer More Healthy Choices

UCHICAGO MEDICINE ADVENTHEALTH IS MAKING CHANGES TO THE FOOD SERVED AT ITS CAFES AND GRAB-AND-GO STANDS. THE DECISION SPANG FROM A DESIRE TO ADHERE MORE CLOSELY TO AN ADVENTHEALTH CONCEPT OF CREATION LIFE, A BIBLE-BASED PLAN FOR BUILDING A LIFE BASED ON CHOICE, REST, ENVIRONMENT, ACTIVITY, TRUST, INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, OUTLOOK AND NUTRITION (CREATIONLIFE.COM).



They also are evaluating other ways to provide healthier choices and how their beverage options can be changed to be healthier and more friendly to the environment. In fact, GlenOaks is a test case for making packaging more eco-friendly systemwide. Currently, no Styrofoam packaging is used in the café. “Everything we use in terms of packaging is eco-friendly and fully recyclable,” he said.

In June, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook hosted celebrity chef Bal Arneson, who held a healthy cooking demonstration for guests and leaders at the hospital. Some of those attending cooked alongside Arneson to learn how to prepare healthy recipes.

At Bolingbrook, the focus is on local, seasonal produce, according to Noelle Deatherage, director of dining services at the hospital. “Our approach is to look at what we can get that’s most local and in season,” she said.

Deatherage also has vegetarian and vegan options at every meal. They have also transitioned to lower-sodium veggie-based chips and natural granola bars. Most of their sodas are either zero sugar or sugar-free, and they offer a wide assortment of waters and juices.

She said they focus on making healthier choices also tastier, and that has helped people respond well to the new menus. “When people are excited about the way the food tastes, they are less worried about what they can’t have,” she said.

And like Fischer and Rapacz, she said the key is finding the right balance. “The biggest thing is making sure we are honoring our faith-based concerns and also making it satisfying to the consumers,” she said. ■

Julie Busch is associate vice president for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth marketing and communications.



▲ Paul Fischer, food and service director for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale and La Grange, and his colleague take inventory of the fresh produce in the walk-in refrigerator.

“We wanted to move our hospitals back to their foundation of whole-person care and help improve the health and well-being of our visitors, our patients and our team members,” said Paul Fischer, food and service director for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale and La Grange. “We want to continue building a culture of life and wellness.”

Fischer and his staff added more fresh vegetables and fruits, as well as more plant-based, vegan and organic entrees. They also increased the number of healthy snacks and removed some of the snack choices that were higher in sugar and fats. The new,

healthier snack options have been among the more popular changes, Fischer shared, adding, “I can’t keep enough of some of them in stock.”

Each hospital is implementing changes based on their experience with the communities they serve. For example, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth GlenOaks already had been using only halal meat because there is a large Muslim population near the hospital. They always have a vegetarian option in the salad bar, and they stock mainly healthy snacks, shared Craig Rapacz, director of food and nutrition at GlenOaks.



▲ Back (L–R): Nathan Cheng, Jeff Smith, Tom Wehtje; Front (L–R): Carlene Roper, Teddy Weithers

WAUS: Your Classical Connection

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, THE PUBLIC RADIO STATION WAUS 90.7 FM HAS BEEN SERVING THOUSANDS OF LISTENERS IN THE MICHIANA AREA AND ONLINE. BROADCASTING FROM THE CAMPUS OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY, THE 50,000-WATT STATION AIRS HIGH QUALITY CLASSICAL MUSIC PROGRAMMING, NEWS UPDATES, LOCAL FEATURES AND CONCERTS.

The station curates a catalog of more than 30,000 pieces of music, creating playlists for each hour of the day. Along with music, WAUS plays “Your Story Hour” and the Pioneer Memorial Church worship service on weekends and frequently broadcasts local symphony performances. In collaboration with Glenn Russell, the Andrews University Department of Religion & Biblical Languages and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, the station

also produces Scriptural Pursuit, a 30-minute Bible study dialog that is the longest-running weekly program at WAUS.

“The WAUS audience is a very eclectic and discerning cohort of fans of all kinds of music, but especially western art/classical music. They come from all walks of life,” says Jeff Smith, general manager of WAUS. To connect with their audience, the station annually sponsors a free Sunday Summer Concert

Series at Fernwood Botanical Gardens. The station has financial support from Andrews University, listener members and local businesses. “We are proud to have both serious and casual music ‘lovers and likers’ as our listeners and members,” Smith says. “There is room for everyone.”

Smith, who has been associated with the station for almost 35 years in many roles, took over as general manager at the beginning of 2023. An ordained minister and a broadcaster, he enjoys working in the intersection of music and ministry. “I have loved WAUS since my first time on the microphone in August of 1989,” he says. “I love the gathering of passionate people around a common goal. We are blessed with a dedicated staff who constantly push for excellence, plus we benefit from the energy and vitality of the students we get to invest in every year.”

WAUS has six full-time staff members, along with six to eight student workers each school year. The team includes Teddy Weithers, membership and marketing director; Chelsea Lake, programming and music director; Nathan Cheng, technical director; Carlene Roper, account executive; and Tom Wehtje, office assistant. “For us, it’s a tremendous opportunity to be part of people’s daily lives in a basic and meaningful way,” says Smith.

Smith sees WAUS as deeply aligned with Andrews University’s mission to “Seek Knowledge. Affirm Faith. Change the World.” He notes that the radio station plays a vital role in connecting the Andrews campus with the local community and looks forward to fostering the station’s continued growth in the future, stating, “We always want to engage the audience and strengthen our partnerships in the community. We are ‘Your Classical Connection,’ and we want to keep that connection strong. Connection to great music? Certainly. But also connection to Andrews University and the message of hope we are charged to share.” ■

To learn more about WAUS, visit waus.org.

Isabella Koh is a University Communication student writer at Andrews University.



World Changers Made Here.



▲ A celebration was held on Sabbath, July 15, 2023, for the organization of a new church called “2nd Generation.”

Spanish Church Plants English Congregation in Chicago

THE SPIRIT OF CHURCH PLANTING CONTINUES AT ILLINOIS CONFERENCE'S CENTRAL HISPANIC CHURCH WITH A CELEBRATION HELD ON SABBATH, JULY 15, 2023, FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW CHURCH CALLED “2ND GENERATION.”

The Central Hispanic Church of Chicago has a prominent history as the first Hispanic church to be organized in the Lake Union. If you go to the Adventist Archives website, you can read an article published in 1947 in the Lake Union Herald titled “Attempting Great Things for God.”

There, Pastor Jose Rivera shares that when he came to pastor the congregation in 1944, there were only 12 people. That first Sabbath the pastor challenged them to “attempt great things for God.”

The pastor shares that they began to pray, fast, plan and work. The congregation

started a radio program that broadcast every Sunday and distributed Spanish-language magazines to 200 homes. He then said they had plans to distribute 10,000 pamphlets in preparation for an evangelistic campaign with the goal to plant a *second* new congregation.

At a meeting of the church board in the summer of 2015, Pastor Luis Equiluz shared with the church board the desire of the conference to see which churches would be interested in planting a new church. At the end of the meeting, Luis Colon shared his dream of planting an English-speaking church.

Pastor Equiluz shared with him the information needed to start the process.

On Aug. 8, 2015, a group of committed members had their first meeting in which they voted to make the name of the church “2nd Generation.”

Their first Sabbath worship service was held on Nov. 28, 2015, with the theme “Believe in Miracles.” Even though some of the leaders had double responsibilities in the two congregations, they worked hard to grow the new group, doing health programs, creative prayer initiatives, community service activities and even having an evangelistic campaign. The congregation grew to the point of being approved as a company in October 2020 and in February 2023 they were approved to be organized as a church.

Personally, I marvel at the missionary spirit of seeing a Hispanic church plant an English-speaking church. My prayer is that this spirit of “attempting great things for God” will spread to each church member and each pastor in our union. ■

Carmelo Mercado is the Lake Union general vice president for multicultural ministries.



tubing and swimming in the river. The event was highlighted by an ordination service for elders, deacons and deaconesses, a communion service, and Hispanic food from Honduras, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Need for a Northern Convocation

Depending on which part of Wisconsin you travel from, a trip to Cassopolis, Michigan, where the annual Lake Region Hispanic camp meeting is held can take upwards of six hours to navigate—one way. The long distance would require taking a day off from work just to travel. “It’s not possible for most people to leave work early on a Friday,” said Rivas.

Over time, the distance has created a lack of connection to the conference and other Hispanic members across the Lake Region. “Some people don’t know what conference they’re in and sometimes think they’re a part of Wisconsin Conference,” he noted.

Camp meetings are a time where deep connections are forged, and it became more and more apparent there was a need to host a northern convocation. “We wanted to wake up our church members to keep their minds on heavenly things,” Rivas said. “We are so focused on earthly things. People are working and at times God’s business is put aside.”

Since the camp meeting, one church member relayed to Rivas that she and her husband experienced a powerful blessing. “My life is usually work, work, work and [during the camp meeting] I totally forgot about my job.”

Plans are underway for meeting again from July 26 to 28 in 2024. Prayers are requested for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the northern area of the Hispanic District in Wisconsin. ■

Submitted by the Northern Hispanic District Area of the Lake Region Conference



▲ One hundred and ten church members, including children, youth and young adults with their families congregated and received inspiration from Lake Region Conference’s vice president for multilingual ministries, Eddie Allen.

Wisconsin Hispanics Convene Special Camp Meeting

FROM JULY 28 TO 30, 2023, THE GREEN BAY THREE ANGELS AND COLBY NUEVA JERUSALEM II HISPANIC CHURCHES GATHERED FOR THE FIRST REGIONAL CAMP MEETING HELD AT RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP LOCATED IN THE VILLAGE OF AMHERST, WISCONSIN.

One hundred and ten church members, including children, youth and young adults with their families, congregated under the theme of “En su Presencia” (In His Presence) to be inspired by the word of God, in the voice of Lake Region Conference’s vice president for multilingual ministries, Eddie Allen.

“It was moving to see members pause and just immerse themselves in God,” said Juan Rivas, pastor of the Three Angels and Colby churches.

In addition to the spiritual enrichment, it was a time for families to bond as they participated in social activities such as kayaking,



Photos by Victor Rayno

▲ From July 7–10, Harbor of Hope collaborated with three local churches and the Benton Harbor Police Department to host Operation Safe Space: Impact Weekend.

Church Leaders Step Up to Help Combat Summer Violence

IT STARTED LAST SUMMER WITH THE “STOP THE VIOLENCE TOUR,” WHEN MEMBERS OF THE HARBOR OF HOPE CHURCH IN BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN, VISITED EIGHT HOUSING COMPLEXES TO PROMOTE PEACE AND STOP THE GUN VIOLENCE.

That initiative led to a charge given by Harbor of Hope Church Pastor Taurus Montgomery this spring at a City Hall meeting, when he called all churches to join in the fight against the powers of darkness. This led to an unexpected turn. Four pastors, plus the Benton Harbor chief of police, jumped in with offers to help.

From July 7–10, 2023, Harbor of Hope collaborated to host Operation Safe Space: Impact Weekend. Harbor of Hope, Bethel Christian Restoration Center, Greater Grace Temple and New Birth Apostolic Church joined for one purpose, to spread peace and stop the violence. [Bethel adopted River Terrace, Greater Grace adopted Briarwood and New Birth took on Thurgood Marshall.] Later, a fourth church, Purpose Church, adopted the Harbor Bluff housing complex.

One highlight was a Bible skit based on Cain & Abel, illustrating that with God’s power we can control our anger and not do what Cain did to his brother.

After the skit, a message was preached by the church’s pastor to that housing complex community. At the end of the program, there were questions about the message, and prizes such as bikes and cash were given out to those who correctly answered the questions.

Children and adults were able to leave with practical tools to help manage their emotions and make better choices in their responses to bad situations. They learned a deep breathing technique, and every child and adult was gifted with an emoji stress ball.

The fire department also joined as a community partner and brought their truck for all the kids to play with and experience.

Harbor of Hope Church also launched the HOPE series at one of the Harbor of Hope adopted communities, Berrien Homes, where evangelism meetings with a message were held each weeknight. 3ABN sponsored goodie bags and was also present. The following week, Harbor of Hope simultaneously ran two additional evangelism meetings in



another two adopted communities.

The final phase, still under development, is the building of a state-of-the-art community center at Harbor of Hope for kids to have a safe space to flourish, while still pouring Christ’s love into the adopted housing complexes and helping to maintain peace in the community of Benton Harbor. ■

Jharony Gibbs is youth director and head of outreach at Harbor of Hope Church.



▲ KhaiKhai Cin, executive director of the NAD Myanmar youth ministry said it was amazing to see how God had led. "We had a short time of preparation, but God came in and he opened many doors even when there were no doors, so on behalf of my team, we just want to give Him thanks."

Myanmar Youth Hold First Division-wide Convention at Andrews University

AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE IN THE MAKING, THE MYANMAR ADVENTIST YOUTH GROUP WITHIN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION GATHERED FROM JULY 5–9, 2023, FOR A CONVENTION AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY WITH THE THEME "BENT BUT NOT BROKEN."

Approximately 300 diverse groups of Myanmar youth and young adults, along with some parents, participated in the convention. Attendees represented 11 states across the U.S. including Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Oklahoma and Washington.

The five-day convention focused on providing the diverse NAD Myanmar youth with the opportunity to connect and fellowship with each other and to be co-laborers with Jesus Christ, while enabling them to experience and learn from experts that are well-versed in the areas affecting their physical, mental and spiritual life. The goal was to provide youth and young adults hope and freedom in Christ.

Focus on Learning and Connecting

The leaders and planning committee of the convention strategically mapped out the

five-day schedule to be as engaging for the target group as it could possibly be while ensuring various aspects of the convention could still be incorporated to ensure attendees could learn and connect with each other and with Jesus Christ. Each day began with a United Prayer morning devotion led by Gem Castor, prayer coordinator for ASAP Ministries. During the day, educational and entertainment activities, such as sports activities including soccer and volleyball tournaments, seminar sessions, and exhibition sessions consisting of various booths from organizations and schools, were provided to the attendees. In the evenings, engaging activities such as social games, Bible action, singing contests and cultural shows were among the activities.

In addition, attendees heard Tracy Wood, youth director for the North American Division, deliver messages on God's love and

deliverance, tied to the theme of 2 Corinthians 4:8–10, "Bent But Not Broken."

A special time for outreach ministry and community services was also provided. Attendees had the opportunity to serve the Lord in action by going into the local communities on Sabbath to help clean a park, participate in a mobile food drive, distribute needed items, and visit nursing homes and dying local churches.

Rightly Trained

Most, if not all, of the NAD Myanmar youth have refugee and immigrant backgrounds, given the influx of refugees and immigrants from Myanmar resettling in the U.S. over the last two decades. This has resulted in a growing need for ministry to this group. Many of them are still faced with challenges including culture shock, generational conflicts, financial hardship and spiritual malnourishment, in addition to normal everyday struggles such as physical and mental health and relationship issues. To address these issues, the convention offered expert guided seminars and a Q&A panel featuring the presenters where attendees posted questions they deemed important.

Reflection on the Event

KhaiKhai Cin, executive director of NAD Myanmar youth ministry, says the event went better than expected by the grace of God. He concluded with, "What an amazing opportunity for us to witness to you and to others in our community about God's love through this event. It's amazing how God has been leading us thus far. We had a short time of preparation, but God came in and He opened many doors even when there were no doors, so on behalf of my team, we just want to give Him thanks."

Plans are underway for the next Myanmar youth convention to be held in June 2025. For more information, visit www.nadmam.org ■

Hoih Nu is the NAD Myanmar Adventist Ministries youth convention media coordinator.

Over 500 Attend Division-wide Zomi Convention in Indiana

THE 10TH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION ZOMI CONVENTION WAS HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF INDIANA ACADEMY FROM JUNE 28 TO JULY 1, 2023.

The Indianapolis Zomi church was the host for the event. More than 500 guests came from all over the country.

Zomi (pronounced ZOH-Mee) members come from Myanmar, a Southeast Asian nation, formerly known as Burma. Many fled their homes to escape religious persecution for their Christian faith, and the recently intensified political unrest because of Myanmar armed forces (known as the Tatmadaw) seizing control of the country on Feb. 1, 2021.

Under the theme “Prepare to Meet Your God,” inspired by the biblical passage from Amos 4:12, speakers encouraged attendees to continue to place God first in their lives and prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

A very moving experience took place when Pastor P.L. Thlenga, from the Oklahoma

Conference, shared a powerful Christ-centered message on Friday night. It ended with an altar call inviting people to surrender all to Jesus. As a result, a great number of souls came forward with public confessions, and tears of joy were evidence of many lives impacted by God’s Word and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The convention was a special opportunity to enable fellowship and spiritual growth. More than 8,000 miles away from their home country, Zomi children, youth and adults had the opportunity to connect as a family and get closer to God and each other. ■

Noel Ojeda is the multicultural ministries director for the Indiana Conference.



▲ The convention was a special opportunity to enable fellowship and spiritual growth.



▲ Amir Gulzar

Wisconsin Elects New Executive Secretary/Treasurer

ON JULY 1, 2023, AMIR GULZAR BEGAN HIS MINISTRY AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER FOR THE WISCONSIN CONFERENCE.

Gulzar grew up in Pakistan where he attended Seventh-day Adventist institutions of education, earning a BBA in marketing (1996) and BBA in accounting (1997) from Pakistan Adventist Seminary. He went on to earn his Master of Business Administration from Philippine Christian University (2000) and his PhD in international finance from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (2018).

During his career, Gulzar has served in many capacities in educational institutions throughout the Adventist denomination. From 1996–2002, he served at Pakistan

Adventist Seminary in the roles of head of the business department, instructor in the Business and Computer Science department as well as executive director of the Community Learning Center. Following these appointments, Gulzar moved to the Democratic Republic of Congo where he served at the Adventist University of Lukanga from 2003–2019. During his time there he served as a lecturer and senior lecturer in the Business and Computer Science department, project manager for income-generating projects, and head of the

business department before becoming the vice-chancellor/president.

In addition, Gulzar is a published author having written one book and numerous journal articles. He is fluent in English, French, Urdu and Punjabi. He also attended the Institute of World Mission, located in Thailand, on two different occasions.

In 2020, Gulzar was invited to be the business manager at the Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School in Wisconsin, where he served until his recent call to be the executive secretary/treasurer for the conference.

The Milwaukee School has been blessed and the conference is grateful for his service there and looks forward to his ministry in this new role.

Gulzar and his wife Shabnam have three children, Nathan, who is attending Andrews University, and Nathalie and Natasha, who are attending Wisconsin Academy.

He replaces Brian Stephan who retired after 43 years of denominational service. ■

Laurella Case is the Wisconsin conference communication coordinator.

For years, BCA's roof had been causing serious issues, says Dan Grentz, BCA school board chair. "We had been patching it for years," he said, "but it was not sustainable anymore."

The school board began looking for solutions, but contractors quoted above \$830,000. After the pandemic and the supply chain issues that followed, the price skyrocketed to \$1.2 million. The funds they had raised through grants and several benevolent individuals were nowhere near enough, "about \$80,000 of \$1.2 million," says Grentz. "We knew nothing was too big for God, but it was daunting."

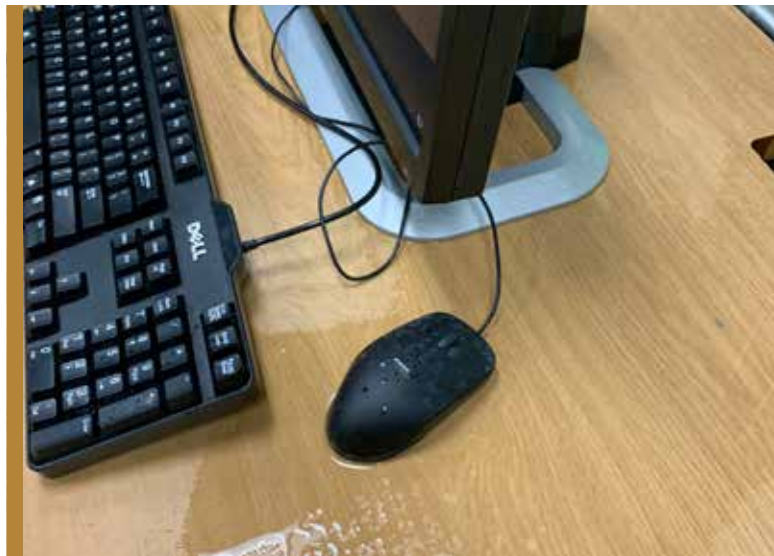
By spring, the situation was worsening. "There were buckets all over the place," Grentz says. "Rooms were flooding, computers were damaged—it was ridiculous." The school board was discouraged. "We'd looked into every possibility we could think of," says Grentz.

Providential Meeting

In March, after accepting an invitation to do a concert for the Azure Hills SDA church in California, Grentz was connected with Arthur Blinci, who works in Adventist Risk Management, and, interestingly enough, was in charge of Azure Hills roof restoration. Blinci shared that their roof was being fixed at an affordable price. Grentz did more research and presented what he had learned to the school board.

"We Knew Nothing Was Too Big for God, But It Was Daunting ..."

BATTLE CREEK ACADEMY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1872 AND THE SCHOOL IS NO STRANGER TO ADVERSITY. MOST RECENTLY IT WAS A ROOF WHICH THREATENED TO CRUMBLE, DESTROYING WITH IT THE SCHOOL'S ILLUSTRIOUS 151-YEAR HISTORY.



In Grand Rapids, there was a company that repaired roofs using foam, sprayed over the roof to make a white, reflective, waterproof layer, called a polyurethane roof. The board voted to approve the company, provided the price was fair.

When the company, True Colors Industrial, sent the bid, it was \$250,000, which was approved. BCA signed the contract and paid the down payment. That was one answer to prayer, but “we still needed about \$190,000,” says Grentz. “On faith we went ahead.”

Over Memorial Day weekend, Grentz wrote a letter to “everyone in our database.” He placed his faith in the Lord and mailed out over a thousand hand-addressed envelopes to alumni.

“In the course of six weeks, we had raised over \$150,000,” Grentz says. It was a miracle. “Every time you would go to the mailbox at the school there was just more envelopes,” he says.

There was one reply that impacted Grentz personally. An old woman’s shaky handwriting detailed that she had attended BCA in the building that had burned in 1945. “She could barely write,” Grentz says, “but she wanted to make sure that her school would stay open.” The woman had enclosed five dollars. “It was her widow’s mite,” Grentz says, with tears in his eyes.

“I get emotional,” Grentz says, “despite all the roadblocks, the Lord brought everything in the nick of time. We had people telling us that we would have to close the school—we thought we had exhausted everything, but this, this was a gift from God.”

Originally, the BCA school board thought God was going to work by raising \$1.2 million. “God didn’t raise the million dollars for us—he found a \$900,000 discount,” Grentz says. Their faithfulness was rewarded.

The polyurethane roof has a warranty of 12 years, and after that time, the company will redo the roof for one-third of the original cost. If the roof is resprayed every 12 years, it will be 72 years before the cost reaches \$1.2 million.

When Jeremy Hall, superintendent of education for the Michigan Conference, reflects on this miracle, he sees a “direct correlation to the care that the Lord has for Adventist education and our young people.” With the new roof installation, the Lord will continue to use BCA to lead young people to Christ, just as He did over a century ago. ■

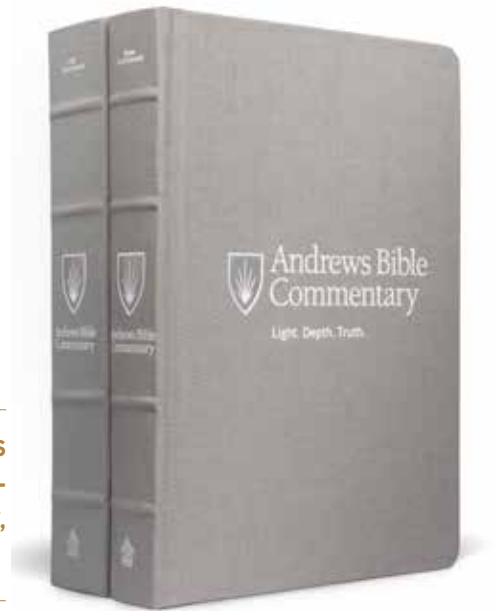
Judy Ringstaff is the Michigan Conference communication administrative assistant.



▲ Dan Grentz, BCA school board chair, notes that BCA’s roof had been causing serious issues. “We had been patching it for years,” he says, “but it was not sustainable anymore ... There were buckets all over the place. Rooms were flooding, computers were damaged—it was ridiculous.”

“Andrews Bible Commentary” Goes to Every Adventist School in North America

STUDENTS IN EVERY ADVENTIST SCHOOL IN NORTH AMERICA WILL HAVE ACCESS THIS FALL TO THE NEW “ANDREWS BIBLE COMMENTARY” THROUGH AN INITIATIVE FINANCIALLY SPONSORED BY THREE ORGANIZATIONS, ACCORDING TO JOHN WESLEY TAYLOR V, PRESIDENT OF ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.



Taylor, who took office at Andrews on July 1, said that the Foundation for Adventist Education, the North American Division Office of Education and Andrews University partnered to organize funding to send a set of the Commentary to every Adventist school in the North American Division (NAD). The Foundation for Adventist Education is a private foundation operated by the family of Ed and Ann Zinke, of Silver Spring, Maryland, and supports many projects focused on advancing deep biblical understanding of Adventist theology and the philosophy of education.

The “Andrews Bible Commentary,” released in a concise, two-volume form in 2022, is intended for the general readership of the church, Taylor said. “We like to say that it is the accessible Commentary by the scholars of the church for the people of the church. I’m honored to carry on the work of

my two predecessors, Niels-Erik Andreassen and Andrea Luxton, in advocating for the church-wide distribution of this milestone work that they initiated and brought to completion. And this program to get it to the schools will help establish it as the Adventist standard for the next generation.”

The Commentary was edited by Angel Manuel Rodriguez, former director of the General Conference Biblical Research Institute, who supervised the work of a large team of associate editors and writers from around the world. “This project represents the very best in Adventist scholarship for church members,” Taylor said, “and Andrews is proud that Dr. Rodriguez and his team produced such an outstanding work that is at the solid center of Adventist biblical studies.”

Arne Nielsen, NAD vice president for education, said, “We at NAD are delighted to support this initiative because we know what

the Commentary is and how it will help our elementary and secondary students have a solid, Adventist understanding of Scripture. Of course, we look forward to the time when they will have access to it not only in their school library but also in their homes as their parents understand the richness of this resource and acquire it themselves.”

Nielsen arranged for the announcement about the school distribution to the 6,000 attendees at the Division-wide Teacher’s Convention held in Phoenix, Aug. 7–10. He said that NAD Education is covering the shipping cost for the Commentary to be sent out from Andrews to approximately 750 elementary and secondary schools in the United States, Canada, Bermuda and Guam-Micronesia, starting in September. ■

Andrews University Office of University Communication

“We at NAD are delighted to support this initiative because we know what the Commentary is and how it will help our elementary and secondary students have a solid, Adventist understanding of Scripture.”



Hundreds of Lake Union Educators Head Back to Class at the National Teachers' Convention

THREE HUNDRED EDUCATORS AND CHURCH LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE LAKE UNION TERRITORY GATHERED AUG. 7-10 FOR THE FIFTH NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION TEACHERS' CONVENTION AT THE CONVENTION CENTER IN DOWNTOWN PHOENIX, ARIZONA.

With much to see and experience, attendees toggled the conference-within-a-conference experience generated by Ed Talks, Spark Tank events, Stem Lab activities, Podcasts, a bustling Exhibitors' Hall, good food, and much more!" said Lake Union Conference Education Director Ruth Horton.

The Lake Union Education Department hosted a banquet for its educators on Wednesday evening, Aug. 9, and during the program several teachers remarked how the convention has sparked numerous ideas for re-engaging with students in the classroom.

Over the three days, as temperatures outside the convention center hovered between 100 and 110 degrees, we connected with various teachers and heard the same story: they were happy to be there, soaking up as much information as time and their brains allowed.

"This experience has been awesome and enlightening," exclaimed Enid Williams, Lake Region Conference 5th-8th grade teacher at the Chicago South Suburban School. "I'm so excited to be here so I can be a better teacher!"

For Christopher Morris, a Bible and math teacher for ASPIRE Academy in the Michigan Conference, he gained greater insights into assessment. As a pastor-turned-teacher, he says his introduction to "standards-based learning seemed intimidating but in listening to speakers here at the conference I can definitely say I'm no longer intimidated by it. I can see the necessity for its application in the classroom, so I'm excited to get started."

Christopher Erich, 7th-10th grade history teacher at Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School in Wisconsin, attended a session on working with ADHD kids, how to get them to focus and pay attention. "I learned about the condition itself [ADHD] and got strategies I can use in the classroom and hope to test out soon."

Meanwhile, Desiree Walker, Illinois Conference Hinsdale Adventist Academy's 3rd-4th grade teacher, said she deepened her understanding of applying technology in the classroom. But the most important part: "I was really invigorated and super excited about the mission of the Adventist school and what we're doing. I think that is what I'm going to give my students, that they are in the right place, they're meant to be there, they're loved and safe and that God wants to see them prosper."



Her sentiments were amplified by veteran teacher David Vandenburg, who has taught at Andrews Academy in Michigan for 22 years. Having attended several conventions over the years he noted, “The most significant thing I’m taking back is a renewed spirit, sense of collegiality and sense of mission for Adventist education. I’m inspired to get back with my kids and back in the classroom.”

K–8th grade teacher Carli Towner of Mount Pleasant Elementary School in Michigan summarized the convention’s theme. “We can take something better back to our students and that is an important relationship with Jesus.”

Horton concluded, “We landed from Phoenix with greater ease, even relief, into pleasant temperatures we tacitly vowed to treasure, then to valiantly and prayerfully embrace 2023-24, charged to Inspire Transform. Empower our students.■

Debbie Michel is editor of the Lake Union Herald.



MILEPOSTS

WEDDING



Jessica Trubey and Jeremy James were married on Sunday, May 28, 2023, in Rome City, Indiana. The ceremony was conducted by Pastor Gary Thurber. They now live in Avilla, Indiana.

Jessica is the daughter of Jeffery Trubey and stepmother, Michele Trubey, from Pickens, South Carolina, and Birgit Sherwin and stepfather, Timothy Sherwin, from Loma Linda, California. Jeremy is the son of Jeffrey James and stepmother, Kim James, from Wolcottville, Indiana, and Lesia Bauer and stepfather, Stuart Bauer, from Canastota, New York.

OBITUARIES

CURRAN, Edwin “Ed” D., age 79; born March 7, 1941, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin; died Feb.

12, 2022, in Tawas, Michigan. He was a member of the Glennie Seventh-day Adventist Church in Glennie, Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Christine “Chris” Kay (Bush) Curran; son, Edwin (Debbie) Curran; daughter, Eyvonne (Mike) Sullivan; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. A memorial inurnment was conducted by Pastor Tony Ludwin on March 27, 2022, at Camp Au Sable in Grayling, Michigan.

DEAN, Anna G (Greavu), age 102; born Feb. 13, 1921, in Burns Harbor, Indiana; died April 17, 2023, in Grand Blanc, Michigan. She was a member of the Holly Adventist Church in Holly, Michigan. She is survived by her daughters, Peggy Hoffmeyer and Rosemary Ward; and sister, Virginia Buchanan. Funeral services were conducted by Dr. Alan Patterson, Pastor Daniel Ferraz, Pastor Bob Benson and Paster Paul Pellandini, and interment was in Oakhill Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

HENSON, John W., age 92; born Nov. 30, 1930, in Collegedale, Tennessee; died March 13, 2023, in St. Joseph,

Michigan. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is survived by his wife, Audrey Henson; son, John (Lily) Henson; and daughter, Shandelle “Henson” (James) Hayward. A memorial interment was held at the Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale, Tennessee.

MCKEE, James “Jim,” age 89; born April 10, 1933, in Glasgow, Iowa; died March 2, 2023, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He is survived by his wife, DeLauna (Keith) McKee; son, Ronald (Karla) McKee; and two grandchildren. A celebration of life was held April 2 at the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

SIMPSON, Shirani V., age 42; born Aug. 25, 1980, in Detroit, Michigan; died May 7, 2023, in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Survivors include two children, Jeziel and Silas Galindo; mother, Doris; and brother, W. Lance. A memorial

service was conducted May 21 at the Iglesia Adventist del Septimo dia de Berrien Springs in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

VELDMAN, Phyllis E. (Labrenz), age 91; born March 6, 1932, in Montello, Wisconsin; died June 11, 2023, in Appleton, Wisconsin. She was a member of the Green Bay Adventist Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. She is survived by her son, Jeffrey (Carrie) Veldman; daughter, Sandra (Toby) Paulsen; brother, Donald Labrenz; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A memorial inurnment was conducted by Pastor Kevin Moreno on June 23, 2023, at the Oxford Adventist Church, and a graveside service at the Oxford Cemetery in Oxford, Wisconsin.

Please send us
your Conference,
church and
school news!

herald@lakeunion.org

news

If you know of a student
about to attend or is
already on a public
university in the Lake
Union, you should reach
out to the conference
representative for help
in providing an anchor
in the young person's
faith journey.



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. Conference addresses and phone numbers are listed in the masthead on the inside back cover.



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CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Local Church Budget
- 9 World Budget (Emphasis: Radio Ministries) (GC)
- 16 Local Church Budget
- 23 Local Conference Advance
- 30 Local Church Budget

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 34th session of the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Cedar Lake Church in Cedar Lake, Michigan, Sept. 24, 2023, with the first meeting

called at 9 a.m. Reports of the previous five years will be rendered, proposed constitutional changes may be considered, the election of conference officers, departmental directors and members of the executive committee will take place, and any other business will be transacted which may properly come before the session. Delegates are those duly elected by the various churches of the conference and delegates-at-large as provided in the constitution. Each church in the Michigan Conference is entitled to one delegate for its organization, and one additional delegate for each 100 members or major fraction thereof, determined by the membership as of Dec. 31, 2022. As provided by the bylaws, the organizing committee (composed of one delegate from each church, plus one additional delegate for each 500 members or major fraction thereof, as of Dec. 31, 2022) will

meet on Sept. 23, 2023. The organizing committee meeting will begin with vespers at 7 p.m. at the Cedar Lake Church.

Sunnydale Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, Oct. 6–7, 2023. All alumni, former faculty and staff are invited to attend “Let’s Gather Together” Alumni Weekend, Sunnydale Adventist Academy, 6818 Audrain Rd 9139, Centralia, Missouri 65240. For more information, please contact alumni@sunnydale.org or 573-682-2164 x200.

ADVENTIST HISTORICAL MATERIALS NEEDED:

Are there historical items in your home? The Center for Adventist Research preserves letters, diaries, manuscripts, photos, audio-visual materials, and artifacts. To donate, email car@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3209.

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>.

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September

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

Sept. 21–24: *SciFEST*

Sept. 24–25: *Preview: Conociendo Event (Spanish-speaking)*

Sept. 28–Oct. 1: *Alumni Homecoming Weekend*

ILLINOIS

Sept. 15–17: *Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Akita*

INDIANA

Sept. 1–4: *Hispanic Camp Meeting, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 8–10: *Adventurer Family Weekend, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 15–17: *Pathfinder Camporee, Timber Ridge Camp*

Sept. 22–24: *Brown County Blowout, Timber Ridge Camp*

LAKE REGION

Sept. 23: *Better Health for You (Virtual)*

MICHIGAN

Sept. 8–10: *Adventurer Family Camp, Camp Au Sable*

Sept. 8–10: *Upper Peninsula Camp Meeting, Camp Sagola*

Sept. 15–17: *Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Au Sable*

Sept. 15–17: *Public Campus Ministries Fall Retreat, Camp Au Sable*

Sept. 29–Oct. 1: *Family First, Camp Au Sable*

WISCONSIN

Sept. 8–10: *Adventurer Camporee, Camp Wakonda*

Sept. 15–17: *Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Wakonda*

Sept. 22–24: *Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) Retreat, Camp Wakonda*

CLASSIFIEDS

EVENTS

Inviting all alumni from Adelphian Academy, Cedar Lake Academy, Grand Ledge Academy and Great Lakes Adventist Academy to Alumni Weekend 2023 on October 13–14, 2023. Please call your classmates and encourage them to come to this wonderful event. The honor classes would be 1963, 73, 83, 93, 98, 2003, 2013. Please contact our office at 989-427-4444 or email bwallace@glaa.net or tmorgan@glaa.net for more information. We hope to see you there!

SERVICES

MOVE WITH AN AWARD-WINNING AGENCY—Apex Moving + Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves for you. Call us for all your relocation needs. Contact Marcy Danté at 800-766-1902 or visit our website: apexmoving.com/adventist.

TEACH Services Helping Authors: Publish your book, including editing, design, marketing and worldwide distribution. Visit teachservices.com to submit your manuscript for a free evaluation or call 800-367-1844. Shop for NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS at teachservices.com or at your local ABC.

Psalms Peace: The Ancient Hymns Awakened. “Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with Psalms” (Psalm 95:2). All

150 Psalms (KJV) are available in song, loaded on a solar/USB-powered device containing amazing speakers. 17 hours of soothing music: psalmspeace.com, 517-703-4088.

PRAYER NEEDS Facing a challenge? Have a concern? At LifeTalk Radio we believe in prayer and want to pray for you. Whatever your problem, God is bigger. Share your prayer needs at: LifeTalk.net/prayer. Live with hope! Listen at LifeTalk.net.

EMPLOYMENT

Pacific Union College is seeking faculty positions for the 2023–2024 academic year in the areas of **history and music**. Major duties include the responsibilities of assessment, planning, development and implementation of classroom experiences and course objectives. We desire those who will be committed to a collaborative

working environment, as well as those who possess dedication in furthering the goals of excellence in student success and critical thinking skills. Most importantly, we desire those interested in bringing students closer to Christ by nurturing the whole person and embracing concepts for lifelong learning. If you are interested, please contact Human Resources at HR@puc.edu or call 707-965-6231.

Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, is searching for a payroll accountant. This position oversees and supervises the payroll functions of the organization, ensuring pay is processed on time, accurately and in

compliance with government regulations. This is a full-time, non-exempt position. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment.

Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska is searching for a program director for the public health graduate program. A doctoral degree in public health is required. This individual will be responsible for the implementation of and teaching within the graduate program. Please view the job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment or contact Debbie Eno at Debbie.eno@ucollege.edu for more information.

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>.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar

| | Sept. 1 | Sept. 8 | Sept. 15 | Sept. 22 | Sept. 29 |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Berrien Springs, Michigan | 8:19 | 8:07 | 7:55 | 7:42 | 7:30 |
| Chicago, Illinois | 7:24 | 7:12 | 7:00 | 6:48 | 6:35 |
| Detroit, Michigan | 8:06 | 7:54 | 7:42 | 7:29 | 7:17 |
| Indianapolis, Indiana | 8:16 | 8:04 | 7:53 | 7:41 | 7:30 |
| La Crosse, Wisconsin | 7:40 | 7:28 | 7:15 | 7:02 | 6:49 |
| Lansing, Michigan | 8:12 | 8:00 | 7:48 | 7:35 | 7:23 |
| Madison, Wisconsin | 7:32 | 7:20 | 7:07 | 6:55 | 6:42 |
| Springfield, Illinois | 7:30 | 7:18 | 7:07 | 6:55 | 6:44 |

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What Your Church Needs to Know About Copyright Laws

Q: MY CHURCH RECENTLY RECEIVED A CEASE-AND-DESIST LETTER FROM A COMPANY THAT CLAIMS WE USED AN IMAGE WITHOUT PERMISSION AND NOW OWE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. OUR CHURCH USES IMAGES WE FIND ON THE INTERNET. AREN'T THOSE OKAY TO USE?



▲ JENNIFER GRAY WOODS

Unfortunately, this is an all-too-common scenario. Often church ministries look for images on Google or other search engines to use in their bulletins, presentations or even for church websites. The problem is that doing so risks violating copyright law.

Copyright law provides creators of certain works the exclusive rights to display, distribute, perform, make derivatives of, and copy their works. One common myth that people believe is that if something is on the internet it is free to use. However, this isn't the case. In fact, there are companies that, with the use of content recognition software, scour the internet for images that are being used without proper permission. Many ministries have ended up having to pay multiple times what a license would have cost on the front end in penalties after the fact. And under U.S. copyright laws, these penalties could get quite pricey (up to \$150,000 per infringing item).

So, what should churches and ministries do if they want to use images or other creative works? First, consider using images that you personally create. For example, if you want to use images of a sunset or fruit as part of an illustration, see if you can take the photo yourself. Then you become the owner of the copyrighted work. Second, you should see if there are images that you can use that are already in the public domain. Copyright protections

only last for a set amount of time and after that a work is free for the public to use. For current works, a copyright lasts for the life of the creator of the work plus 70 years. However, for works created before 1978 the length of copyright protection varies depending on when it was created. Finally, if the work that you want to use is still copyright protected, make sure you get permission before using it. What about images found online where you can't tell if the image is protected by copyright or not? Well, the best thing to do in those instances is to find another image where you can get clear permission to use the work. A great source for images is through a stock image company or finding images that are licensed through a public copyright license.

For more information about copyright and how to properly use copyrighted images please visit the copyright basics training at NAD Big Data and Social Media: <https://www.sdadata.org/copyright-trade-mark-basics.html> ■

Jennifer Gray Woods is the lawyer for the Lake Union Conference, as well as the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director.



Keep On Asking



▲ TRICIA WYNN PAYNE

“NOW LET’S KNEEL, CLASP OUR HANDS AND PRAY. REPEAT AFTER ME: ‘NOW I LAY ME DOWN TO SLEEP, I PRAY THE LORD MY SOUL TO KEEP AND IF I DIE BEFORE I WAKE, I PRAY THE LORD MY SOUL TO TAKE. AMEN.’”

My parents taught us to pray at an early age and introduced us to Christianity as we attended a neighborhood Baptist church. Using a sticker given to me in our Sunday School class, with the words “Jesus is Lord” written over the backdrop of a rainbow, God inspired my faith in Christ. Pasting that sticker to my dresser, I stared at it as a youngster and repeated the words, “Jesus is Lord ... Jesus is Lord ... Jesus is Lord ...” until the day my young mind awakened from a masked stupor to the reality of a Divine Being that assumed total responsibility for me. Feeling deep joy, I sat in awe as I believed in Christ. This ignited the beginnings of my private prayer life; where as a child I realized I could bring all my concerns to Christ. I believed Jesus cared for me.

Later, due to my grandmother’s and later my mother’s influence, we began attending a nearby Seventh-day Adventist church where my faith, knowledge of Scripture and prayer life continued to grow. This later proved vital during an unexpected health crisis, when I was hurtled into a fight for my very life. What evolved into a tragedy propelled me not just to pray once but persistently and at every turn the unexpected crisis took, especially as it pertained to dreadful complications.

These words of Christ offered great encouragement, “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7 NLT). I determined to keep on asking, seeking and knocking down Heaven’s door for complete healing not because I believe God needs

to be massaged and melted but because I learned a while ago that prayer does not change God, it changes us.

However long God wanted to take to bring us [my husband Shawn and I] through this life storm was necessary time to work in us something far greater than I could imagine or think. Scripture says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2–4). I believe, through the unwelcome experiences of life, God is able to make us a better version of ourselves. I learned to trust God’s process. Our marriage grew stronger, our love for each other deepened, our characters were being refined under God’s molding hand. ■

Tricia Wynn Payne is director of women’s ministries for the Lake Region Conference.

Adapted from “The Fight for My Life: What I Discovered as I Triumphed Through Tragedy”



Guaranteed to Win

DO YOU LIKE A CHALLENGE? WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ONE OF THE POPULAR CHALLENGES WAS ARM WRESTLING. I DID NOT WIN MOST OF THOSE CONTESTS. IN FACT, ONE OF THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS, WHO LATER BECAME MY WIFE, COULD OUT-ARM-WRESTLE ME. I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN RUNNING RACES BECAUSE I HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING.



▲ GENE A. HALL

One Sabbath during the sermon I presented a challenge to my congregation. In addition to returning a faithful tithe, I asked them to prayerfully consider adding 1 percent to the current amount they were giving for offering. Accepting my challenge meant if they were currently giving no offering, they would begin giving 1 percent. If they were giving 5 percent, that would become 6 percent, and so on. I committed to the challenge and added 1 percent to the offering I was giving. Fifteen years later I am still giving the extra percentage and I have not missed the money.

Malachi chapter three records a challenge God has given us, although He does not specify an amount like I did. In verse eight God reveals that the people have been robbing Him of tithes and offerings. Then in verse ten God lays out the challenge. “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” That is a strong challenge, with a commitment from God attached. God promises to pour out more blessing than we need if we will first be faithful to Him.

One of my pastoral colleagues faced financial challenges early in ministry when he was raising his young family. There really was not any money left over after returning a faithful tithe and paying the necessary bills. But he was determined to give an offering as well, so he made a commitment to God.

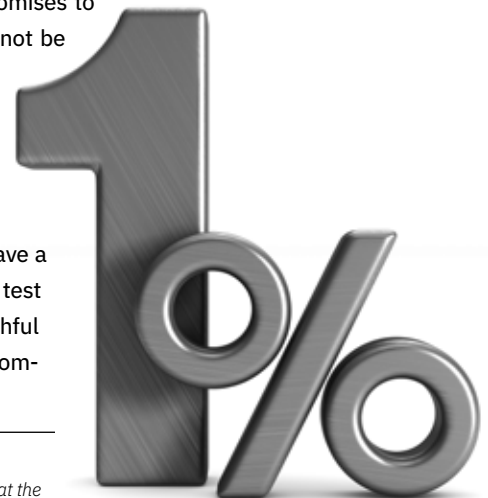
He laid out a challenge for himself and accepted it. His challenge was to begin giving a 1 percent offering each month, increasing it by another 1 percent the next month until his offerings equaled his 10 percent tithe.

That first month when the tithe, 1 percent offering and all bills were paid, there was actually a little money left over, something that had never happened before. The next month something similar happened when the 2 percent offering was given. Every month when the offering increased the budget was met.

What might God be challenging you to do? If your offering percent is zero, try giving 1 percent so God can keep His promise to you. Are you already giving 10 or 15 percent or more for offering? Would you accept a challenge to increase that amount? Remember, when God promises to pour out a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it, He does not want us to build bigger barns wherein to store the increase. He pours out the blessing so we can use it to bless others.

Are you up for a challenge you have a great chance of winning? Will you test God’s promise to you by being faithful to Him? In fact, God has already promised that you will be successful. ■

Gene A. Hall is an associate director for Stewardship, Planned Giving & Trust Services at the Michigan Conference.



Looking Forward to Home

CHANGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING I WAS FAMILIAR WITH, WHETHER IT WAS GOOD OR BAD. I GREW UP IN A FAMILY THAT MOVED AROUND A LOT DUE TO MY FATHER'S JOB, SO I EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT I COULD NEVER CALL ONE PLACE "HOME."

I was born in a city I never lived in, then spent most of my early childhood in a small town in central Brazil called São Félix do Araguaia. My dad was a pastor doing ministry with an Indigenous tribe called Karajá, and at the time it felt normal for me—I saw no issues with being part of a culture I was not born into.

A few years later we moved once or twice and finally settled down, or so I thought, in a bigger city called Palmas, where my dad worked for the conference as the director of ADRA. In 2012, my father got the call to work in Egypt. At the time, I did not want to move. I had finally felt comfortable in a place and wanted to stay there for the rest of my life; it was starting to feel like home! I thought my future was set, but God had completely different plans in mind.

If you asked 10-year-old me if I wanted to stay in Brazil, I would have said yes without hesitation. However, now that I am older and

have experienced what I did, I would not change the move to Egypt for anything. I spent three years in Egypt, made new friends, learned a completely different language and culture, and even started to feel comfortable enough to call it "home."

As usual, plans changed again, and my family and I moved back to Brazil. My brother had already moved to Hong Kong to complete his high school studies, and I lived with my parents for two more years before joining my brother at the same boarding school across the world. Hong Kong for me became the closest place to home that I ever felt in my life, but I do not want to finally settle down in a place on Earth when the end goal is Heaven.

I know many people in church have become so comfortable with what they have now that they forget God has many things—better things—planned for them if they simply listen. I chose to be comfortable with being uncomfortable, regardless of the situation.

I knew that if I decided to stay in Hong Kong any longer, I would not be able to continue growing mentally and spiritually. I would stay lukewarm in life, with no goals set in place and nowhere else to go except "home."

Now I attend Andrews University. I don't know what the future holds for me and my family, but I do know that God will always provide despite any challenges I face. He has always been there for us, and I don't doubt He will do the same for you. ■

Sara Santana is a senior psychology major at Andrews University.

Photo courtesy Sara Santana

Faith Alive

WHAT STARTED OUT AS AN ORDINARY SUMMER DAY TURNED INTO A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR ANDREWS UNIVERSITY STUDENT ESFIR ZAVRICICO. SHE BEGAN THE MORNING WITH HER REGULAR DEVOTIONAL TIME, THEN PREPARED TO TRAVEL WITH HER FATHER FROM THEIR HOME IN TURKEY TO MOLDOVA.

When they arrived at the airport, they were moved to a separate area to pay some fees. Esfir recalls their number in line was 1072. “We realized the line was moving too slow. Everyone started worrying they would miss their flights, but no one could do anything.”

While Esfir and her father waited, a mother with five children approached. Unable to understand Turkish, the mother sought a translation of what was happening. Esfir’s father was able to communicate with the mother in Russian and explained that the family needed to wait until their number—1084—was called forward. “Their flight was the same time as ours,” Esfir notes. “We waited and prayed.”

Hours passed, as did the boarding time, and the mother again requested help. Esfir’s father began

asking people to switch places with the family, but nobody would move. While he was busy, Esfir saw her number on the screen. “It was our turn!” she recollects. Although she was anxious not to miss her flight, her devotional reading, which had been about serving one’s neighbors, came to mind. “I felt this strong conviction that God would be very pleased with us if we helped His children.”

At that moment, Esfir decided to ask her father to switch numbers with the family and, in a matter of seconds, he agreed. “The mother couldn’t believe her eyes,” Esfir conveys. “There was so much joy in my heart! My dad and I were sure we did the right thing because we knew God was pleased.”

Placing their trust in God, Esfir and her father continued to wait. Miraculously, the line began speeding up, and their number was called with minutes to spare before their flight departed.

After running through the airport, they arrived at their gate to find that the plane had just begun boarding. “God had stopped the whole plane just so we could make it to our flight. My faith became real, and my devotional lesson came alive that day! I could feel how God miraculously gave me His love for my neighbor,” Esfir expresses. “May we all experience God and have our faith come alive through experiences like this!” ■

Compiled by **Isabella Koh**, a University Communication student writer at Andrews University

◀ Esfir Zavricico

Photo courtesy Esfir Zavricico

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2023–2024 Andrews Preview Experiences

FALL

Sept. 24–25, 2023

Conociendo a Andrews
(for Spanish speakers)

Oct. 13–16, 2023

October Preview

Nov. 5–6, 2023

Lake Union College Days

Nov. 12–13, 2023

Transfer Students
& Health Professions

SPRING

March 8–11, 2024

March Preview

April 12–15, 2024

April Preview

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