

SERVING SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE LAKE UNION SINCE 1908

# HERALD

JUNE/JULY 2024



## Culture Builders



UChicago  
Medicine



Advent Health



The birds were nested in a tree closest to my window and the sound of their morning worship songs seemed a perfect backdrop for my first, and waking, prayer of the day. With my eyes still closed I scanned my mind for the requests, petitions and needs that had settled there, coming from the hearts of friends, family and acquaintances for immediate delivery to my own. When you know that prayer changes things, the promise to pray is both serious and urgent.

It was almost startling to note just how many of those requests had something to do with health, or rather, the desperate need for it. So many people were in need of good health and the Great Doctor who provides and sustains it.

There was one dearest friend whose mother, once known for a mind that was sharp and bright, was now ironically touched by the dulling fingers of a dementia that overcast the skies of her life.

There was also a child who had battled and won the fight with cancer once, only to be brought back into the ring for another round. The wicked foe was back and, once again, was eyeing the young one.

And there was another church brother whose prayer request was unspoken but, truth be told, he had not looked well for quite some time and needed help.

And there was another family member. And another person. And another. And another. And, yet still another.

Eyes still closed, I wondered, as the sun hinted of day, what shall we say to these things? On a planet marred by the toxic exhaust of sin, how can we be made whole? How shall we pray?

My mind ran to 3 John 1:2 — “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

The Scripture encouraged me and the words in Testimonies for the Church (vol. 7, p. 239.1) lent direction: “And we are to live our prayers. We are to cooperate with Christ in His work.”

Soon after breathing my amen, I laced up my running shoes and went outdoors for some much-appreciated exercise with the sun’s rays warming my face.

*Debbie*

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# FEATURES

14

## Shaping Success

*By Julie Busch*

20

## The Whole Care Experience Unites Workforce Behind Mission

*By Julie Busch*

# CONTENTS

### PERSPECTIVES

Guest Perspective	4
HIStory	8
Conexiones	9
Conversations with God	35
Ask the Lawyer	36
Partnership with God	37

### EVANGELISM

Sharing Our Hope	10
Telling God's Stories	12
One Voice	38
On the Edge	39

### LIFESTYLE

Family Focus	6
Alive and Well	7

### CURRENT MATTERS

AdventHealth	22
Andrews University	23
News	24
Classifieds	30
Announcements	31
Mileposts	32
Calendar of Events	34

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

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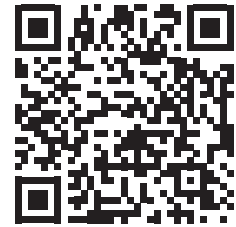
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# Extending More Love and Compassion

One of the first things I did after stepping into my role as president and CEO of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth this past February was to immerse myself in The Whole Care Experience (TWCE), an interactive learning experience designed to align our team members under our mission, vision, values and service standards.

Having served in several senior leadership roles within AdventHealth, I was already familiar with these foundational concepts which shape our faith-based culture and guide us as we provide the highest-quality, whole-person care. Fueled by the thoughtful input of the participants, The Whole Care Experience brought our mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ to life, truly capturing the heart and soul of who we are as an organization.

The experience inspired me and caused me to think more deeply about the importance of our organizational culture. It reminded me that culture is not something that can just be brainstormed, described with words in a brochure or on a website and then checked off a to-do list. It's something that each of us must nurture and actualize every day with purpose and intentionality as we interact with our patients, families, colleagues and the broader community.

During The Whole Care Experience, participants are guided through a "learning map," which includes a powerful depiction of our service standards of Love Me, Make It Easy, Own It and Keep Me Safe. In this beautiful illustration the service standards appear as branches of a thriving tree rooted in the notion of having a servant heart. Another image shows a physician kneeling on one knee while caring for a patient with an injured leg. Elsewhere in the illustration Jesus washes a person's feet, reflecting the physician's inspiration for his work.

Our culture calls us to approach our work with a servant heart, whether we care for patients directly or not. It challenges us to always be attentive to the needs of others and to take steps to address them holistically, recognizing every person faces personal challenges and deserves our compassion, understanding and respect.

Our team members have told me that this learning experience has reinvigorated them and provided a greater sense of unity and purpose. They feel more connected to AdventHealth's history and rich legacy of whole-person care. We are thrilled to give you a glimpse of the work we are doing to strengthen our culture and to share the rich transformation that it is creating.

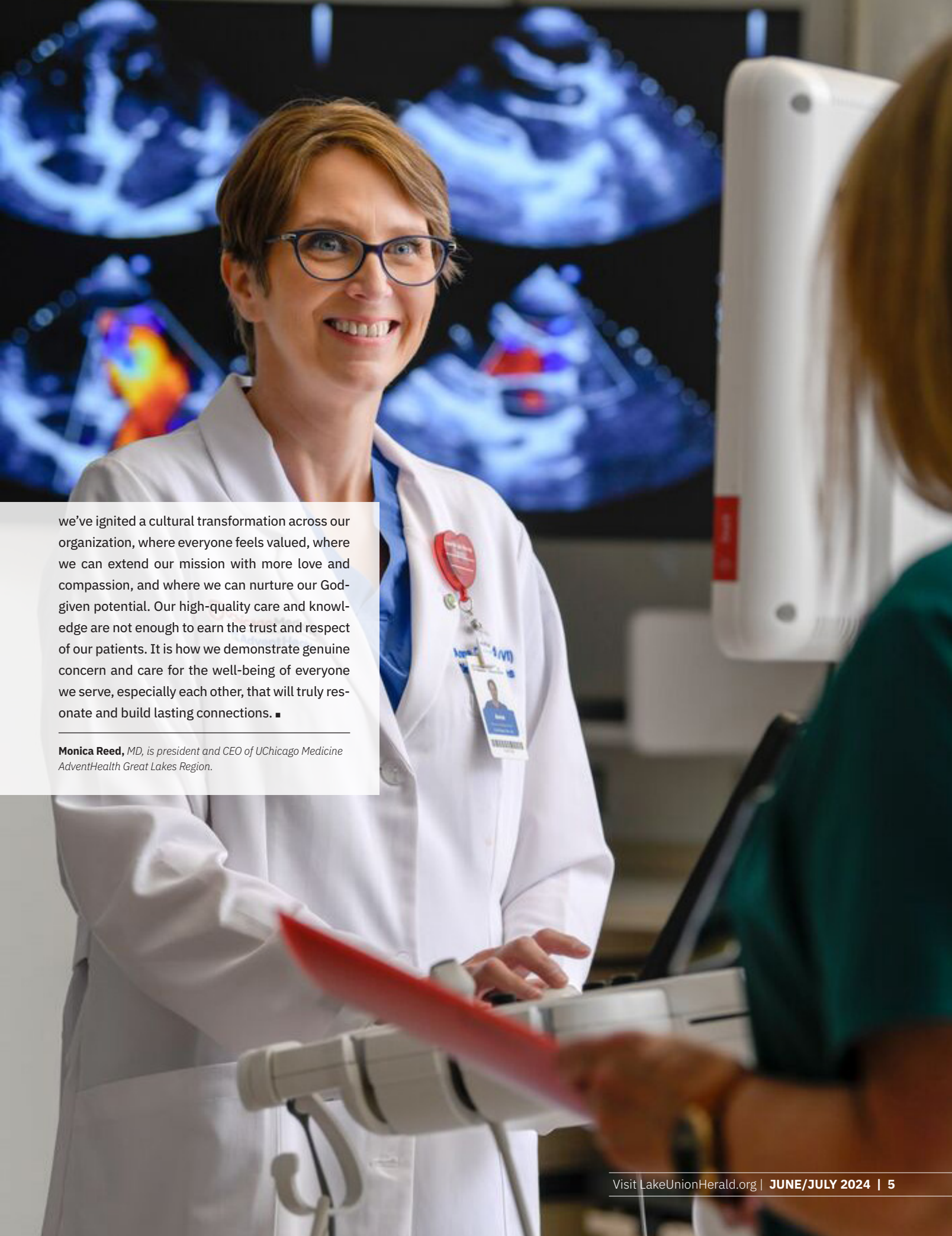
In the stories of this issue, you'll hear from the leaders of our four hospitals in the Great Lakes Region as they discuss our culture and how mission is at the forefront of everything we do. You'll feel inspired as you read a moving patient story from our Bolingbrook hospital, where our team members cared for a patient for more than a year and in the process became his adoptive family. And you'll learn more about the ways we are caring for our community with health equity initiatives focused on diabetes and drug and alcohol abuse prevention and education.

"No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care," Theodore Roosevelt once said. And I couldn't agree more. This is why



AdventHealth

▲ MONICA REED



we've ignited a cultural transformation across our organization, where everyone feels valued, where we can extend our mission with more love and compassion, and where we can nurture our God-given potential. Our high-quality care and knowledge are not enough to earn the trust and respect of our patients. It is how we demonstrate genuine concern and care for the well-being of everyone we serve, especially each other, that will truly resonate and build lasting connections. ■

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**Monica Reed, MD**, is president and CEO of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Great Lakes Region.

# Family Communication and Youth Mental Health



▲ ALINA M. BALTAZAR



▲ YAZMIK CANTILLANO

Mental health in young adults has been a prevalent issue, leading to increased utilization of services across the United States for the past 10 years. “An estimated one in three students meets criteria for a clinically significant mental health problem.”

Facing stigma and several other difficulties, the question lies in the factors that can either build a positive foundation or bolster this widespread problem. Literature suggests that there is a relationship between students who receive mental health services and family functioning concerns. Past research has indicated that poor family support and lack of communication with parents can increase the probability of emotional and behavioral problems. Common emotional and behavioral problems in college students can be identified as mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and substance use, which can often lead to suicidality issues or other adverse outcomes. Christian homes are not immune to these difficulties.

My colleagues and I conducted research last year with young adult Seventh-day Adventist college students using a survey and some follow-up focus groups. Results from the survey show when young adults feel comfortable talking to their parents about drugs, sex and alcohol not only are they less likely to do those things, but they are also less

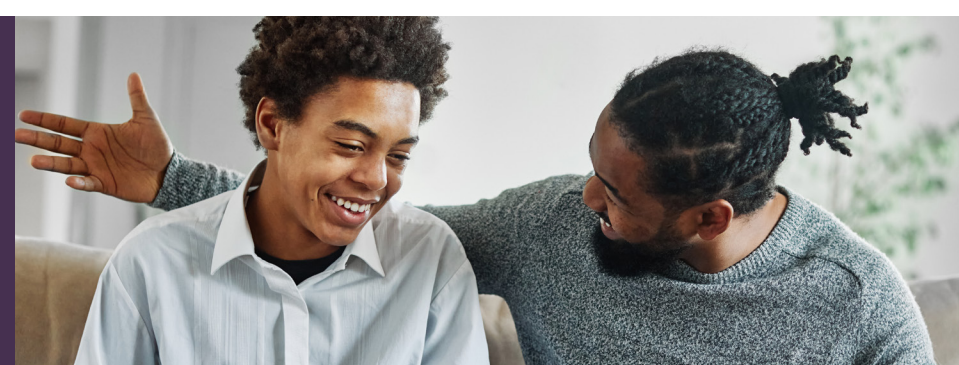
likely to be depressed, have thoughts about suicide in the last six months, and are less lonely. Some common themes were discovered from the focus groups in relation to parents and mental health. The young adult Adventist participants want their parents to better understand the unique challenges they face growing up as Adventists in a post-modern American world and for parents to be there when needed.

Here are some quotes from focus group participants to better illustrate these points: “Just being willing to listen and don’t give unsolicited advice. If I’m struggling with an issue, don’t just brush it off or give straight facts. Just sit down and listen.” What they want is “love and acceptance.” Young adults are individuals “who are growing and going through a lot of things... Being willing to help where they need help and not judge” is what they really want.

Of course, we aren’t always going to like the decisions they make. Those concerns should be clearly stated, but our emotional support should not be a condition of our approval of their choices. Young adults want to learn from us but want to understand where our guidance comes from. The Bible is full of wisdom to make wise choices, parents can help our youth apply it to modern everyday life. ■

**Alina M. Baltazar, PhD, MSW, LMSW-clinical, CFLE**, is a professor of social work and co-associate director of the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions at Andrews University.

**Yazmik Cantillano, MSW, LMSW-clinical**, is an assistant professor of social work at Andrews University.



# Living Water for the Body and Soul

Watching the waves crash on the beach, the sunset and sunrise, the calmness of such a massive amount of water surely relaxes every fiber of our being and shows the power of God in creation. When I see Lake Superior, I cannot help to think that water is one of God's blessings to humanity.



▲ YIN SCHAFF

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has long promoted a message of healthful living in the eight laws of health, including water. Water carries health power. Water is found everywhere in our body, from the large to the small blood vessels and the bones in the skull. Our bodies consist of more than 60% water by weight, the brain about 70% and the lungs even more at 90%. Water keeps our body functioning properly. When our body lacks water or is dehydrated, that carries health consequences such as a higher risk of heart disease, joint pain, dry skin, urinary tract infections, etc. Our body cannot function without water!

Water serves us not only internally but also externally. Internally, water bathes the digestive system, keeps our lungs moist, cleanses impurities, and eliminates waste products. Externally, water acts as a cleanser, refreshes our skin, and offers medical treatment such as hot- and cold-water treatment hydrotherapy. The physiology of hydrotherapy is that cold causes the surface blood vessels to constrict and hot causes the surface blood vessels to dilate. Alternating cold and hot hydrotherapy treatment improves toxin elimination, stimulates the circulation and immune systems, and decreases inflammation.

Are you drinking enough water in a day? The appropriate water intake is achieved by dividing your weight (in pounds) by half and drinking that many ounces of water. This formula is for healthy individuals. If you would like to learn more about

hydrotherapy treatment, many health centers or churches offer courses in hydrotherapy, or you may choose self-guided learning. It is critical to understand the description of the temperature when hydrotherapy treatment is implemented so individuals do not get burned.

As important as water is for our physical health, something else is even more important. "As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" Psalm 42:1,2 (NKJV) The Bible applies this on a spiritual level by introducing Jesus as the Living Water. We need spiritual water as much as physical water to prevent spiritual dehydration. We cannot function without the water of life on a spiritual level as we go through the heat of daily living's ups and downs. Jesus promised, "Whoever drinks of this water will never thirst again." John 4:13 (NKJV) I desire to be fully hydrated, not only physically but also spiritually. Will you come and join me daily at the fountain of the Water of Life? ■

**Yin Schaff** is health director for the Wisconsin Conference.



# Heroes Have Flaws

At times, we have the tendency to regard people as “good guys” or “bad guys,” as if there is no in-between.



▲ DENIS KAISER

“WHILE WE MIGHT LAMENT THE ERRORS AND FRAILTIES OF FELLOW BELIEVERS AND CHURCH OFFICIALS, WE MAY ALSO RECOGNIZE AND CHERISH THE UNFORESEEN GOOD ARISING FROM THEIR ENDEAVORS, HOWEVER FLAWED.”

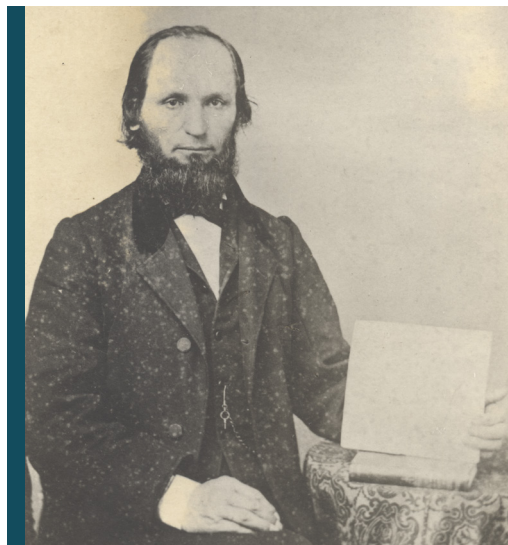
At a recent meeting of historians, one scholar captured the complexity of reality and personality by saying, “The villain has a heart, and the hero has flaws.” Striking a fair balance between the two is an art.<sup>1</sup> Many examples could be given from the history of our church to illustrate that reality. Today, I would like to focus a little bit on Michał Mathias Belina Czechowski (1818–1876), the apparent renegade Seventh-day Adventist minister who sailed under the banner of the Advent Christian Church to Europe, but, unbeknownst to either group, he shared the truth of the Seventh-day Sabbath there and established little companies of Sabbathkeepers in Switzerland and Romania.

In January 1864, Czechowski expressed his desire to preach the third angel’s message to the pope in Rome, yet Loughborough replied that the church would not be able to send him, a remark that seemed to contradict James White’s suggestion eight months earlier to send B.F. Snook as a missionary to Europe by the end of 1863.<sup>2</sup> There was certainly a contrast between the insular, frontier-minded early Adventists and this polyglot

cosmopolitan. Czechowski had a burning desire to share the gospel to as many people as possible, with a focus on recent immigrants. He claimed to speak seven languages, and in 1860, he chose to establish a city mission in New York City, a melting pot of cultures and languages. Despite his zeal, Czechowski’s impulsive decisions and poor financial management often undermined his efforts. Most endeavors resulted in significant debt for him and his family, and the church that tried to lift his burden each time.<sup>3</sup>

A move to Europe would place him where the church would no longer be able to counsel him, yet they would feel obliged to support him financially. The later story of his sojourns in Europe would prove them right in this regard. But despite noting his weaknesses and failures, Seventh-day Adventist leaders were impressed to admit that God had blessed Czechowski’s efforts in Europe, thus establishing the nucleus of our church on that continent.<sup>4</sup>

Life’s complexity is mirrored in its people. While we might lament the errors and frailties of fellow believers and church officials, we may also recognize and cherish the unforeseen good arising from their endeavors, however flawed. ■



- 1 Anne Blue Wills at the “Roundtable: Writing Religious Biography,” panel discussion of the “Conference on Faith and History Session 2,” annual meeting of the American Historical Association, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 6, 2024
- 2 [J. White], “God’s Free-men,” *Review and Herald*, June 2, 1863, 8.
- 3 “Czechowski, Michael Belina (1818–1876) ...,” in *The Ellen G. White Letters and Manuscripts with Annotations*, vol. 1, 1845–1859, ed. Timothy L. Poirier, Kenneth H. Wood, and William A. Fagal (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2014), 819–820.
- 4 George I. Butler to Ellen G. White, April 1, 1884.

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



# Shiloh en Español

He invitado a Ariel Padrón, pastor de la Iglesia Adventista Hispánica Logan Square en Chicago, que nos relate la historia de la formación de una nueva congregación en la mencionada ciudad.



▲ ARIEL PADRON

La historia que estoy a punto de compartir es un relato de éxito, donde hemos sido testigos de la mano de Dios al guiar cada paso que hemos dado. Hace unos meses decidí contactar a John T. Boston, pastor principal de la Iglesia Adventista Shiloh, con una solicitud de doble propósito: la posibilidad de alquilar un autobús de la iglesia para movilizar a personas para una campaña evangelística que tenía planeada para Semana Santa, y explorar la posibilidad de alquilar un espacio en el sótano del templo para establecer un grupo pequeño hispano.

La respuesta del pastor llegó rápidamente.

“¿Es una colaboración de la iglesia o una plantación de iglesia?”

“Es una plantación de iglesia”, respondí.

La siguiente respuesta aun me deja sin palabras:

“Este mensaje es la respuesta a nuestras oraciones”.

Yo desconocía que la Iglesia Shiloh había estado orando fervientemente durante meses, incluso esa misma mañana, por un pastor hispano que liderara los esfuerzos de la iglesia para alcanzar a la creciente comunidad hispana en la parte sur de Chicago. A partir de ese momento, las cosas comenzaron a moverse rápidamente. ¡Dios ya tenía todo preparado! Después de una serie de conversaciones, cada una más emocionante que la anterior, sentí desde el primer día que el cielo estaba movilizado para hacer realidad este plan.

Y la ayuda no se hizo esperar. El pastor Óscar Güity y su esposa Esther Reyna, de la Universidad Andrews, se unieron para colaborar en esta obra. Han realizado un trabajo excepcional para hacer realidad, por la gracia de Dios, el comienzo de esta obra el sábado 13 de abril de este año.

¡Y lo hicimos con gran éxito! El sábado disfrutamos de un servicio excepcional de adoración, una

predica motivadora y un cálido ambiente de fraternización. Pero lo más importante fue el testimonio de que Dios bendice nuestros esfuerzos, pues como parte de nuestra celebración, y siendo la primera de muchas personas, Camila Campero decidió entregar su vida a Cristo Jesús, y fue bautizada por los pastores Oscar Güity y Ariel Padrón. Fue un día histórico. Afroamericanos e hispanos, personas que hablan inglés y español, se unieron para adorar y celebrar juntos en el mismo templo. En ese día, no importaba nuestro color de piel, idioma, contexto cultural o país de origen. Éramos una sola familia, hijos del mismo Padre.

Pero esto es solo el comienzo. Nuestro sueño es ser la iglesia que Dios espera que seamos: una iglesia tan multicultural, como multiforme es la gracia de Dios. La Iglesia Shiloh, junto con el pastor Boston y su equipo pastoral ha abierto sus puertas de par en par para recibir a todos los hispanos que deseen adorar con ellos en español. Solo podemos concluir diciendo que nuestros corazones rebosan de alegría, tanto por lo que ya ha ocurrido como por la esperanza de lo que está por venir. ■

Ariel Padrón es pastor de la Iglesia Hispánica Logan Square en Chicago

▼ La nueva congregación Shiloh en español





David Pflederer

▲ UChicago Medicine AdventHealth's four hospitals conduct a community health needs assessment. The data from these assessments helps to identify health disparities in the communities they serve.

# Data-Driven Strategies Used to Foster Health Equity

As a surgeon whose practice focuses on the treatment of breast cancer, Kaneshia Bryant, MD, is all too familiar with health disparities affecting Black Americans.

Although the incidence of breast cancer is lower among Black Americans compared with non-Hispanic White Americans, Black Americans remain 40% more likely to die of the disease, said Bryant, of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth in suburban Chicago.

"We attribute this disparity to structural barriers to health equity, more advanced stages at presentation and differences in molecular subtype, with Black Americans having more aggressive forms of breast cancer," Bryant said.

Breast cancer mortality is just one example of health disparities affecting Black Americans, who experience higher rates of illness and death across a wide range of health conditions and have a life expectancy four years lower than non-Hispanic White Americans.

Identifying such disparities is a major reason why UChicago Medicine AdventHealth's four

hospitals, along with other AdventHealth hospitals located in nine states, conduct a community health needs assessment. The data from these assessments helps to identify health disparities in the communities they serve. The hospitals work with community-based organizations and public health experts to measure overall community health status, to identify the unique health needs of their community, and to understand any barriers to care that might exist.

"Our efforts are very data-driven," said Fabiola Zavala, regional director of community health for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.

## FOCUSING ON ACCESS TO CARE

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth collaborates with a community coalition in each of the three counties it serves to collect health data from resident surveys, focus groups, census data and other

sources. UChicago Medicine AdventHealth separately collects health data for individual zip codes within each hospital's service area.

"When we analyze this data, we can see where there are health disparities, such as Black Americans having worse outcomes for cancer and chronic diseases as well as diabetes and hypertension," Zavala said. "Each of our hospitals then develops a community health plan, including strategies for addressing the needs and disparities in its community."

Completed in 2022, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth's most-recent community health needs assessments identified access to comprehensive, high-quality care for uninsured and underinsured people as a major need across the communities served by the organization.

"Health equity barriers, including timely, high-quality health care access, still persist," Bryant said. "Black Americans also receive less appropriate treatments than non-Hispanic White Americans."

### CONNECTING WITH THE UNDERSERVED

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth GlenOaks, a hospital in Glendale Heights, Illinois, has sought to improve access to chronic disease screenings and management by offering a free medical mission clinic each June for people who cannot afford health care. In addition to providing health screenings and other medical services, the clinic helps patients connect with a medical home, receive specialty referrals and gain access to social services and affordable medications through a variety of community partners. A similar medical mission clinic is offered in Willow Springs by UChicago Medicine AdventHealth LaGrange in September.

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth also has taken steps to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues among Black and Hispanic/Latino Americans. "Oftentimes mental health isn't discussed," Zavala said. To address this issue, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth partnered with the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Metro Suburban to offer Mental Health First Aid training for faith leaders. "They often are the first professional help people get," Zavala said. "Through this training, we want to empower faith leaders and the faith community to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, to learn how to react to it, and to

know about the community resources that can help people with mental health issues."

### MANAGING CHRONIC DISEASES

To help patients with chronic diseases avoid repeated hospital stays, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth works closely with community partners that offer evidence-based chronic disease management programs. "If we have a patient who has been hospitalized because of complications of diabetes, for example, we want to make sure that when they leave the hospital, they're equipped not only with the appropriate medication, but also with information about these community resources so they can manage their disease," Zavala said. "Partnering with these community-based organizations is really impactful."

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth recently augmented these efforts by launching a health equity plan aimed at mitigating disparities in inpatient outcomes. The plan is an outgrowth of a 2022 health equity assessment that was part of a systemwide AdventHealth initiative aimed at identifying and addressing such disparities at its facilities. Under the plan, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth has hired a community health worker to counsel inpatients whose case managers and social workers have determined need help with addressing social determinants of health, such as food or housing insecurity, managing a chronic disease, paying for medications, receiving nutrition education or addressing issues such as alcohol and substance misuse.

"The community health worker engages with the patient before they are discharged to ensure they have the resources to address their needs," Zavala said. "In the long run, we expect to show improved health outcomes for patients because the community health worker also will follow up with patients at different intervals after they leave the hospital."

Reducing health disparities, Zavala added, "is a journey, and we are committed to using the data we collect to identify those disparities and to address them within our inpatient community and the community at large." ■

**Julie Busch** is associate vice president of marketing and communications at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.

Eric Herzog



▲ Fabiola Zavala, regional director of community health for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth

# Heroic Effort Enables Paralyzed Patient to Reunite with Family

When physicians unfamiliar with Ali Kaba walked past his inpatient room at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook, they initially assumed he must have many family members who lived nearby and visited him regularly because flowers and balloons often adorned his room.

Those physicians eventually learned quite the opposite was true. Kaba, a native of Ghana who had been in the U.S. for a couple of years, was very much alone with only one relative in the U.S. and most of his other family members in Ghana. But he did have an adoptive family — the hospital's staff. During a hospital stay that lasted more than a year, "they went above and beyond, taking care of him

like he was their own family member," said Mushtaq Mohammed, MD, a hospitalist who cared for Kaba.

Kaba, a cab driver, entered the hospital in Chicago's western suburbs on June 25, 2022, after going into cardiac arrest following a heart attack at his home. By the time he was found, taken to the hospital and revived, a lack of oxygen had caused a massive brain injury, leaving him cognitively impaired and unable to speak or move his arms or legs. He spent

more than 100 days in the intensive care unit, requiring ventilator care, a tracheostomy and a feeding tube. He later underwent a colostomy when his

bowels stopped working. "He went through a lot," Mohammed said. "He was totally dependent."

Kaba was also uninsured and lacked other resources to pay for his care, which eliminated home care and nursing-home care as options for ongoing care needs. Reflecting UChicago Medicine AdventHealth's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, the hospital decided to provide his care as charity care, while team members "took him in as our own," said Kim Gillette, DNP, director of care management at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook and UChicago Medicine AdventHealth GlenOaks in Glendale Heights, Illinois. "He was our family, and we were his. We cared for him compassionately, and we celebrated him."

Staff members talked to Kaba, played music for him and sang to him. They kept his room bright and festive with flowers, balloons and cards. They celebrated his 62nd birthday by decorating his room and singing to him. They prayed at his side, and at Christmas time they put up a Christmas tree and played Christmas music for him. They regularly shaved him, cut his hair and clipped his nails. "That's usually not part of medical care, but our staff did it," Mohammed said. "It gave him a smile."

Their willingness to provide such care stemmed from their commitment to UChicago Medicine AdventHealth's mission and "their passion for



taking care of our patients,” Mohammed said. “Life is in God’s hands, and we are just helpers. Christ is next to us, and we extend His healing ministry. We help each other through this life, and this case is a perfect example.” Gillette added, “Knowing that Jesus cared for the afflicted, the abandoned, the poor and the needy, we took care of Ali the best that we could.”

Evidence of the high level of care provided to Kaba included the fact that he never developed bedsores during his entire time in the hospital. “He did not have a single skin breakdown, not a single wound,” said Mohammed, noting that staff members regularly adjusted his positioning in bed and got him out of bed to sit in a recliner.

While staff members focused on providing the highest quality wholistic care for Kaba, Gillette worked behind the scenes to reunite him with his family in Ghana, who wanted to take care of him but did not have the resources to bring him home. This goal became more achievable when Kaba’s condition stabilized, and he became alert months into his stay. In April 2023, Gillette attended the national conference of the American Case Management Association, hoping to connect with medical transport companies exhibiting there. Gillette said she found a company she thought “would care for Ali as much as we did,” and in the months that followed, she worked closely with the company on travel arrangements. She also won approval from UChicago Medicine AdventHealth for the system to cover Kaba’s travel costs.

On July 16, 2023, Mohammed, Gillette and others who had cared for Kaba gathered in his room to bid him farewell before an ambulance took him to O’Hare International Airport for a flight to Dubai, the first leg of a three-day journey back to Ghana. “It was wonderful,” Gillette said. “Even staff members who weren’t working came in to say goodbye.” During the gathering, Mohammed called Kaba’s brother in England and put him on speaker phone. Still paralyzed and connected to a breathing tube, Kaba could hear his brother say, “Ali, you’re going home,” a message echoed excitedly by those in the room. “Ali was more alert than ever, and his eyes got wide,” Gillette said. “He knew.”

As Kaba was wheeled on a stretcher through the hospital and to the waiting ambulance, hospital staff lined the hallways, honoring him by cheering, applauding and singing. Gillette and others shed some tears. “Everybody was happy for him that he was going home, yet sad because he was going so far away and we were going to miss him,” she said. “It was really bitter-sweet. We said goodbye to a member of our family, but we knew he had to go back to his actual family to find peace.”

The medical transport company later reported that Kaba had tolerated the trip to Ghana well and was still alert and in stable condition when he arrived at a hospital in his hometown. Photos showed him reunited with family members. But a week later, Kaba’s brother messaged Gillette with the stunning news that Kaba had passed away. When she shared the news with her staff, more tears were shed. “We didn’t think he would die so soon,” she said. “We thought it might happen in six months or a year. We were all sad he didn’t get to spend more time with his family.”

As shocking as Kaba’s death was for staff members, it could not detract from the heroic team effort, including thousands of staff hours, that went into caring for him and getting him back to his family. “What I’ll remember is the way we all worked together to take care of Ali’s needs and his family’s needs,” Gillette said. “God’s spirit was with us and helped us focus on Ali and what was needed to get him home. It was all-hands-on-deck, and everybody worked together to do the right thing.”

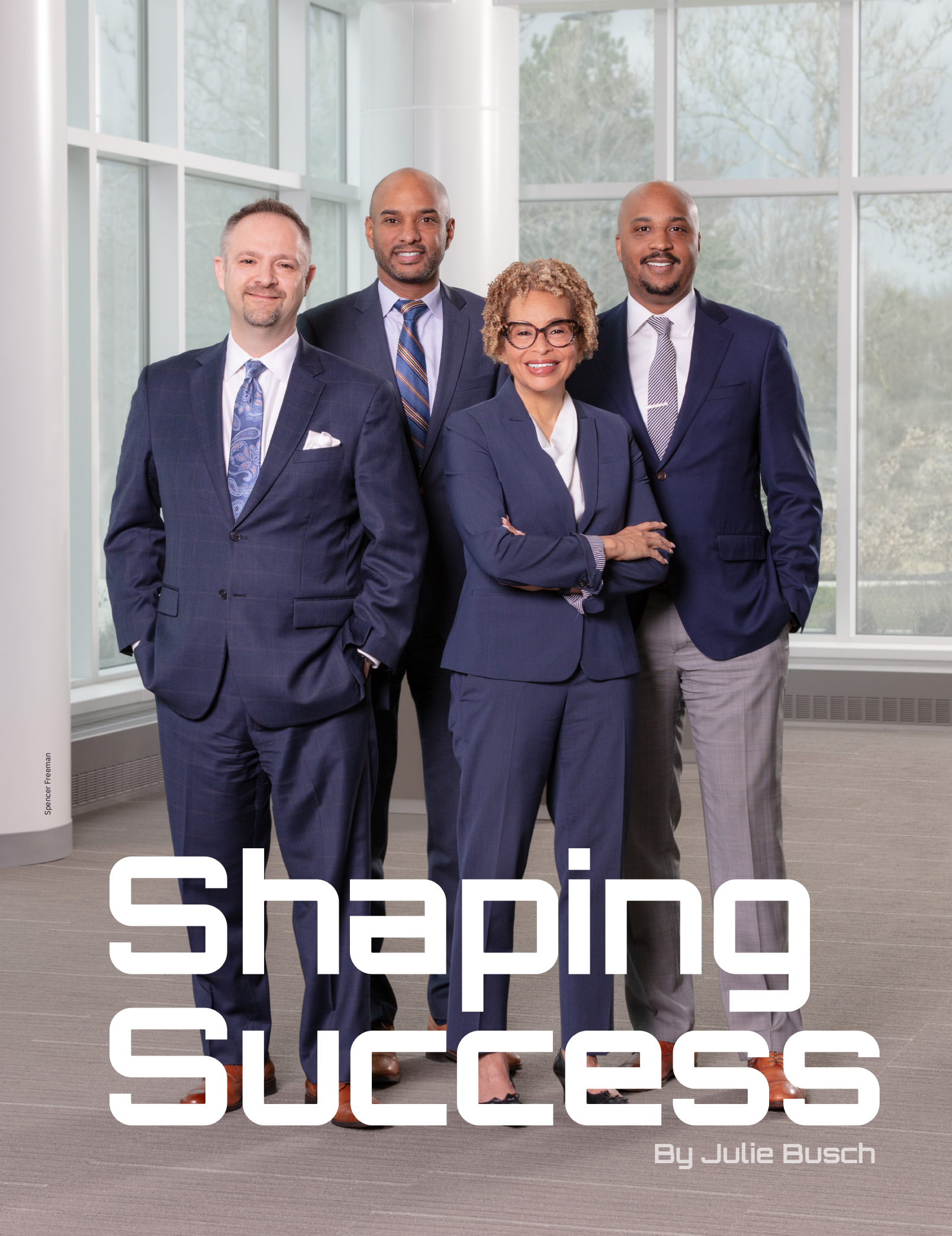
After Kaba passed, his caregivers took solace in knowing they had helped him reunite with his family. “Maybe that’s what he was waiting for all along — just to see those familiar faces from his past,” Gillette said. His caregivers also found comfort in a text message to them from Kaba’s brother in England. The message said: “The family members are all aware of your kindness to him, and we still remember you in our prayers.” ■

**Julie Busch** is associate vice president of marketing and communications at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.



**“God’s spirit was with us and helped us focus on Ali and what was needed to get him home. It was all-hands-on-deck, and everybody worked together to do the right thing.”**

—Kim Gillette



Spencer Freeman

# Shaping Success

By Julie Busch



## How Great Lakes Region Leaders are Building a Culture Legacy

**A**t UChicago Medicine AdventHealth, creating a culture where team members feel inspired, fulfilled and connected to the mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ is paramount. A culture must be nurtured with care. It is the foundation upon which a vibrant environment is built, and sparks team members to deliver an exceptional patient experience for every person, every time.

When it comes to creating culture, it takes more than just talking about the mission, vision and values of an organization. Creating a culture happens when there is intentional work to truly understand the meaning and purpose behind the mission, vision and values, and put understanding into action by living out that mission.

Here's a look at the four executive leaders who are creating a culture based on purpose and mission, where shared values lead to outstanding patient care and a workforce that feels loyal and loved.



Eric Herzog

## Monica Reed, MD

President and CEO, UChicago Medicine  
AdventHealth Great Lakes Region

“WE ARE CREATING  
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**M**onica Reed, MD, feels there are many metaphors that speak to organizational culture. One that she leans toward speaks on nurturing a young person to an adult. “You start by establishing identity, which is largely shaped by values that are the principles the family unit deems as foundational to character and meaning. Then, you build that identity by the way you live and demonstrate those values through behavior.”

The same can be said of organizations. To build a culture, things that are important are emphasized and rewarded. Things that aren’t are de-emphasized. Over time, a collective lens begins to take shape that brings people together, Dr. Reed shared.

“Everyone comes with their own lens,” said Dr. Reed. “When we nourish what is important, and understand our purpose, a strategy starts to come into view. In our region, we want to offer the best community medicine through the lens of our mission and The Whole Care Experience. We want to

wrap that with the innovation, research and power of academic medicine.”

“People are trying to understand our identity, and that gives me an opportunity to facilitate filling in the blanks. We do it together,” Dr. Reed said. “We are creating the narrative of how academic whole-person care can uniquely impact individual consumers and the community at large.”

One of the most significant times Dr. Reed helped shape culture was during her time as CEO of AdventHealth Celebration in Central Florida, which became nationally recognized as a clinical destination for whole-person care. She points to Des Cummings, a former AdventHealth executive, as a mentor. “Des represented the best of a philosophical vision with strategic optimism,” said Dr. Reed. “He richly embodied what we wanted to do, not only what existed inside the walls of the hospital, but outside in the community too.”

She identified two more AdventHealth executives, David Banks and Brian Paradis, who also served as sources of inspiration. Banks previously served as CEO of AdventHealth Celebration and is now AdventHealth’s chief strategy officer. Paradis, former president of AdventHealth’s Central Florida region, was Dr. Reed’s executive leader during her tenure as CEO at the Celebration campus. Early in her career Paradis sat her down and they looked at the hospital from the outside.

“[Paradis] told me, ‘If this becomes an ordinary hospital, you will have failed,’” Dr. Reed said. “It was one of my most memorable moments. His point was to recognize the unique identity of AdventHealth Celebration as a community hospital, as well as a destination for services that were unique to the innovative environment for which the hospital had been established. That was almost 20 years ago, but I’ve never forgotten it. When one has permission to lean into the largest aspects of existing — as an individual, a team, a department, an organization — that offers profound potential. It brings about great creativity. We have that opportunity here and that’s what makes me excited about our future in the Great Lakes Region.”





Spencer Freeman

▲ Julie Rish, VP Consumer Experience, AdventHealth

## THE WHOLE CARE EXPERIENCE

For UChicago Medicine AdventHealth, creating culture starts with The Whole Care Experience — a signature experience expressed as an interactive immersion into the common cultural framework and service standards of the organization. In this setting, team members come together with the goal of understanding the building blocks of AdventHealth culture enough to embody it.

“Culture is who we are, what we stand for and how we behave,” shared Julie Rish, vice president of consumer experience at AdventHealth. “Who do we say we are? What do we say we do? What do we value? And how consistently do we live that out? In answering those questions, we can identify and understand our culture. Once we have that framework, it becomes a living and breathing thing for our team members.”

Rish and her team have seen the evidence of the living and breathing culture of AdventHealth through the inspiring stories shared on internal channels by team members celebrating one another when they witness the mission being lived out. “This is how the culture keeps going and growing,” said Rish. “By acknowledging and celebrating when we see each other living the mission.”



Eric Herzog

## Adam Maycock

President and CEO, UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale and La Grange

Adam Maycock has been deeply embedded in the fabric of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth for over two decades and has witnessed firsthand how culture defines not only the identity and reputation of an organization, but also fosters unity among team members.

“Culture isn’t merely a buzzword. It’s the essence of who we are,” Maycock said. “It’s what attracts and retains talent, setting the tone for our collective actions and aspirations. It exceeds far beyond our walls, becoming the essence of how our community views and feels about us. That’s why I’m a firm advocate for nurturing and cultivating a culture that’s inclusive, diverse and deeply connected to our values.”

Maycock described The Whole Care Experience as a way to engage team members on a personal level, connecting them to the “why” behind the work. “The experience is a time for reflection, inspiration and renewed dedication to our purpose,” he said.

“Through stories and personal connections, we reinforce our shared values and create a sense of purpose to drive us forward.”

Leading by example is very important in shaping culture, Maycock said. “It’s not just about what I say, but how I act and the decisions I make,” he said. “By demonstrating our values in action, I provide a blueprint for others to follow suit.” Moreover, he believes investing in talent development and mentorship ensures that future leaders embody the culture we strive to uphold.

Awards and recognition also play a significant role in reinforcing culture. There are special awards like the Daisy Award for nursing staff and the Shining Star Award for team members, and acknowledgments are shared at leadership meetings to celebrate those who exemplify the service standards. “Recognizing individuals who embody our mission and culture not only strengthens our teams but also provides a wellspring of inspiration on an ongoing basis,” Maycock said.

Culture isn’t just something that is talked about at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth — “it’s who we are,” Maycock said. “We’re not just shaping an organization, we’re building a community united in purpose and driven by compassion.”



Eric Herzog

## Vladimir Radivojevic

President and CEO, UChicago Medicine  
AdventHealth GlenOaks

In the corridors of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth GlenOaks, something profound echoes beyond the mere bustle of everyday operations. It's a culture steeped in faith, where every decision and interaction is infused with the presence of something greater.

Culture isn't just about what's written on the walls — it's about living and breathing the organization's values every moment. Radivojevic believes it is woven into the fabric of the hospital's daily operations.

"As Christians, we let God into our lives, and as a faith-based organization, we let Him in the building," said Radivojevic. "We let Him walk the halls and be part of the decision-making process, part of how we start

our day, how we engage and how we solve our problems."

When tough moments arise, Radivojevic knows he can pray with team members. "Sometimes we say, 'Do you want to pray about this?'" he said. "Praying allows us to be present, to talk about things, and focus on what really matters: our mission, our patients and our family."

The challenges of serving the community are met with resilience and purpose. The community the hospital serves has a lower-middle-class, blue-collar, high Medicare/Medicaid and high behavioral health population. "We face a unique demographic with high health care needs, but despite the hurdles, there's a palpable sense of mission among our staff," Radivojevic said. "It's a dedication to serving those often overlooked by society."

Radivojevic's vision for the hospital isn't just about delivering health care — it's about embodying a higher calling. "By nurturing a culture where faith isn't just acknowledged, but actively embraced, we're fostering an environment where trust, compassion and unwavering dedication flourish."

**"PRAYING ALLOWS US  
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Eric Herzog

ONE SIMPLE  
CHANGE IN  
CULTURE IS THE  
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## Kenneth Rose

President and CEO, UChicago Medicine  
AdventHealth Bolingbrook

As the newly appointed CEO of Bolingbrook Hospital, Kenneth Rose is passionate about building a culture that not only drives success but also nurtures the well-being of team members and the patients they serve. His experiences before coming to UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook, particularly in building an AdventHealth hospital from the ground up in Mansfield, Texas, have reinforced his belief in the transformative power of organizational culture.

“Management guru Peter Drucker’s timeless words, ‘culture eats strategy for breakfast,’ resonate deeply with me,” Rose said. “No matter how robust our strategic plans may be, they are only as effective as the culture that supports them.”

Reflecting on his previous experience opening AdventHealth Mansfield, Rose recalled the challenges and triumphs of

building the culture from scratch. “Together, our executive team crafted a people-centered culture that valued collaboration, excellence and compassion,” Rose said. “This foundation paved the way for remarkable achievements, from high patient satisfaction scores to financial success. It taught me the invaluable lesson that culture-building begins day one and must be ingrained in every aspect of our operations.”

Transitioning to UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook, located in a suburb of Chicago, presented its own set of challenges. The hospital had undergone significant changes, necessitating a concerted effort to rebuild trust and cohesion within the team. Transparent communication, alignment of vision and a commitment to living the service standards became paramount in navigating this transition successfully, Rose shared.

“I’m a firm believer in the power of small gestures,” said Rose. “Whether it’s hosting town halls to create open dialogue or

organizing small leadership luncheons to strengthen relationships, I prioritize meaningful interactions with our team.”

One simple change in culture is the shift from referring to the workforce as “team members” instead of “employees.” “This change helps foster a sense of belonging and ownership, where every team member feels valued and appreciated,” Rose said.

Rose believes it’s the little things that always make the biggest difference. “My vision for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Bolingbrook is to create an environment where every team member feels loved, supported and inspired to deliver exceptional care.” ■

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**Julie Busch** is associate vice president of marketing and communications at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.

# The Whole Care Experience Unites Workforce Behind Mission



**M**ariann Kerley, RN, and Derek Cazeau, team members at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth, recently participated in The Whole Care Experience (TWCE), an interactive learning journey aimed at uniting UChicago Medicine AdventHealth team members under a shared mission, vision, values and service standards and creating a foundation for delivering compassionate care.

Following the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kerley, a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation nurse at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth La Grange and Hinsdale, and Cazeau, executive director of hospital services at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth GlenOaks, were eager to see how the experience would reinforce the organization's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. They approached the experience with open minds, ready to explore its potential to enhance the culture at their hospitals.

The program was "extraordinary," Kerley said, remembering the experience as a "spiritual awakening" that reaffirmed her role as a champion of the mission. Cazeau was also impressed by TWCE's depth, noting that it wasn't just another "flavor-of-the-month" training but a sustainable initiative that would require ongoing dedication.

## REIGNITING THE "SACRED FLAME"

Coming on the heels of several challenging years, The Whole Care Experience sessions gave team members a much-needed opportunity to unplug from work and to reconnect

with AdventHealth's faith-based roots and culture. Every team member participated in the immersive four-hour experience, while leaders, such as Cazeau, and TWCE facilitators (trainers), such as Kerley, received an additional four hours of in-depth training.

"The introspective and interactive experience afforded me opportunities to dig more deeply into my mind, heart and soul and to re-examine the purpose of my ministerial and clinical work," she said, remembering spiritual retreats she has experienced. "I felt rejuvenated, and I felt shaken in the best way possible. It was very moving."

Kerley said the stress, fear and uncertainty she and many other health professionals felt during the pandemic had caused many people to burn out. "TWCE has brought us back to the table and helped us to unify," she said. "It has been invaluable because it has reignited the sacred flame that unites us all. We truly believe in our mission and want to invest in ensuring that all our team members are working together with the same vision moving forward."

## ACTING WITH A “SERVANT HEART”

Cazeau felt TWCE offered an opportunity for personal growth for him and his team members, which was especially meaningful after the challenges of recent years. “It was doing something to strengthen — and in some instances to heal — our team members,” he said.

TWCE’s interactive nature sets it apart from other cultural training programs, said Cazeau, who participated in the experience with other leaders. “It allowed us to talk freely and learn about each other’s leadership styles and how everyone interacts with their teams. It was very fulfilling.”

The experience reminded him that everyone’s approach to everyday interactions can shape a culture. “My interactions will make a difference to others at work, so I have to be mindful of how I’m presenting myself and put my best foot forward,” he said. “It’s all about the big picture of taking care of our patients and their family members. We all must come together to ensure we’re building a culture that can really make a difference.”

To do so, TWCE emphasizes the importance of always remembering AdventHealth’s service standards — Love Me, Make It Easy, Own It and Keep Me Safe — and approaching all interactions with a “servant heart,” just as Jesus did when He washed His disciples’ feet. “It has reminded me not only to be the face of Jesus, but to see the face of Jesus in others,” Kerley said.

That means “always being there for others,” with a willingness to take on any task, big or small, for them, she said. It also means getting to know and love colleagues, building trusting relationships with them, and “identifying things we can do to ensure we’re all moving in the same direction as a team,” Cazeau said.

## SERVING AS A ROLE MODEL

Since participating in TWCE, Kerley and Cazeau both have taken steps to ensure they’re consistently approaching their work with a servant heart.

Kerley said she is committed to sit with patients and talk with them about their lives

and concerns. “I try to provide a reassuring, nurturing and healing presence,” she said. After discussing their clinical plan of care, she asks whether they have any emotional or spiritual needs.

Cazeau picks one service standard to focus on each day and seeks to apply it during interactions with team members and others. “To grow the culture, you have to work at it,” he said. “You have to be a role model so other people understand this is really important.”

Like all AdventHealth team members, Kerley and Cazeau both proudly wear a heart-shaped identification badge. During the TWCE training each team member receives a badge as a reminder of the experience and a visual representation of their commitment to the mission, vision, values and service standards of the organization. The badge includes the phrase, “I care for you like I care for ...,” followed by a blank space that team members fill in with the names of people they love. Kerley added the names of her deceased parents, and Cazeau added the names of his three children.

“It means, ‘I care for you like I would care for my parents,’” Kerley said. “It shows I’m committed to delivering an exceptional experience to every person every time.” Cazeau added, “When you bring that feeling — that true, authentic ‘I care because I’m here to serve you’ — that resonates. Patients will see that. They will feel it. They’ll feel that love.”

Kerley and Cazeau shared they are glad they work for an organization willing to invest significant time and resources into building culture. “To be in an organization that feeds not only our professional development, but also our souls — that’s ideal,” Kerley said. She and Cazeau believe TWCE will differentiate UChicago Medicine AdventHealth in Chicago’s highly competitive health care marketplace. “With everyone’s commitment, we can get better and grow from here,” Cazeau said. “It’s going to take us to new heights.” ■

**Julie Busch** is associate vice president of marketing and communications at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.

“IT HAS REMINDED ME NOT ONLY TO BE THE FACE OF JESUS, BUT TO SEE THE FACE OF JESUS IN OTHERS.”



Bruce Powell



Bruce Powell

# Lessons Lead Doctor to a Fuller Practice

**AFTER GRADUATING IN 1999 FROM NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL, ASHWANI GARG, MD, DID HIS RESIDENCY AT UCHICAGO MEDICINE ADVENTHEALTH HINSDALE (THEN ADVENTIST HINSDALE HOSPITAL). IN THE YEARS AFTER RESIDENCY, HIS CAREER LED HIM IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. NOW AN EMPLOYED UCHICAGO MEDICINE ADVENTHEALTH PHYSICIAN IN HINSDALE AND CAROL STREAM, DR. GARG BELIEVES HE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE TO WHERE HE STARTED — BUT WITH A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE KIND OF DOCTOR HE WANTS TO BE.**

When Dr. Garg accepted the residency, he was not a Seventh-day Adventist. He was not even a Christian. He had grown up in a Hindu household and was used to a largely vegetarian diet. “At the time, I didn’t realize what the Adventist legacy meant. All I knew was that the UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale cafeteria had all vegetarian food,” he said.

After his residency, Dr. Garg worked in emergency rooms in rural Illinois and Indiana, where he saw many of the effects of unhealthy lifestyle changes and a lack of preventive medicine. He eventually joined and was certified by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, which uses therapeutic lifestyle changes in treating and preventing chronic diseases. He realized that many of the founders of the organization were Adventists, and it brought him back again to his residency.

He also met Gabriel Bardan, founder/director of Salient Lifestyle Center and pastor of Elgin Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Terri Dallas-Prunskis, MD, an elder at the same church and co-director of the Salient Lifestyle Center, both of whom became extremely important in his life. He did not consider himself an Adventist, but found himself increasingly drawn to the church, and he began to read the Bible and study Christianity.

In 2022, he became very sick with COVID-19. Bardan happened to call him, and when he heard how sick Dr. Garg was, he offered to pray for him. Although Dr. Garg still was not a believer, he agreed. “That was my first exposure to the idea of being prayed for,” he said. “I put my guard down and said, ‘Go ahead. I can use all the help I can get.’”

Shortly after that, there were more opportunities for people to pray with him. “No one had ever asked to pray for me, and suddenly three people were asking,” he said. “I think they were sent to me.” The last person asked him if he accepted Christ as his Savior. “I had started studying Christianity, and I didn’t hesitate for a second,” he said. “I said yes. And from that moment on, I was Christian.”

Dr. Garg has incorporated both his faith and his belief in lifestyle medicine into his practice now. In June 2023, he joined UChicago Medicine AdventHealth as an employed physician. During his orientation, everything fell into place.

“I thought, this is where I want to be. I felt I was called to this, like this was a path I was set on from medical school onward,” he said. “I see my job differently now. I see myself helping people live whole [lives].” ■

**Julie Busch** is associate vice president of marketing and communications at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.



Dave Pfleiderer, Precise Look Photography

▲ Ashwani Garg, MD, is a family medicine physician with practices in Hinsdale and Carol Stream.



# From Secular Education to Spiritual Enrichment



World Changers Made Here.

**IN A WORLD WHERE FAITH AND EDUCATION OFTEN WALK SEPARATE PATHS, GARHETT MORGAN'S JOURNEY STANDS AS A TESTAMENT TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THEOLOGICAL LEARNING. FROM HIS ROOTS IN SECULAR EDUCATION TO HIS CURRENT ROLE AS A SHEPHERD OF TWO CHURCHES IN MICHIGAN, MORGAN'S NARRATIVE RESONATES WITH SEEKERS OF SPIRITUAL DEPTH AND PRACTICAL MINISTRY.**

Currently serving as pastor of the Sparta and Three Angels Fellowship Adventist Churches, Morgan reflects on his initial steps into ministry without the theological foundation he craved. "I got thrown into ministry without any theological training," he recalls. This void led him to feel stuck, yearning for a deeper understanding of Scripture and pastoral practice.

Morgan's journey took a significant turn when he was introduced to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program offered by the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. "I didn't want to leave ministry. I wanted something practical. I wanted to learn more," he explains. Encouraged by glowing reviews from acquaintances, he embarked on an educational odyssey, driven by a thirst for spiritual enrichment and practical ministry tools.

His experience within the program has been nothing short of a divine blessing. Morgan highlights the program's unique approach, which not only delves into the theoretical aspects of Scripture and pastoral care but also provides practical training. "It gives you hands-on practical understanding of how to work with people, how to apply our doctrines in a very appealing and practical way," he shares.

One of the program's pivotal moments for Morgan came during his study of the sanctuary with New Testament professor Felix Cortez. Despite entering the course with a decent grasp of the subject, Morgan was

astonished by the depth of insight offered. "There's so much that I don't know about the sanctuary when it comes to the book of Hebrews and in Revelation," he admits.

What Morgan found most profound was the program's ability to bridge the gap between theological concepts and their practical implications for daily Christian living. "Showing my church members how this motif of the sanctuary throughout Scripture is simply God pleading for us to have a relationship with Him," he emphasizes.

Moreover, he appreciates the academic integrity fostered within the program, where questions are welcomed, and honesty prevails. "Just the academic integrity that this class provided is also an encouragement to me as a local pastor," he reflects.

As Morgan expresses his gratitude to those who support the program financially

and operationally, he also shares his hope that this educational initiative will hasten the second coming of Jesus, echoing the sentiment of many who seek spiritual renewal and deeper understanding.

His journey exemplifies the transformative power of theological education, where theory meets practice, and spiritual growth flourishes. Through his testimony, he inspires others to embark on a similar quest for enlightenment, enriching both their ministries and personal faith journeys. To learn more about the MAPM program, visit [andrews.edu/sem/inministry/mapmin/](https://andrews.edu/sem/inministry/mapmin/). ■

**Stanton Witherspoon** has worked as pastor, lecturer and communication director in his home country of Liberia, and now serves as a volunteer in the Lake Union Communication department.



Scan the QR code to watch Garhett's story.



▲ Garhett Morgan, fourth from left back row, is pictured with a cohort from the MAPM program at Andrews University. The sanctuary class was taught by Felix Cortez, pictured here seated fourth from left.

Nicholas Gunn

# Historically African American Congregation Launches Spanish Language Worship Experience

**IN A POIGNANT TESTAMENT TO RESILIENCE AND FAITH, THE LAUNCH OF SHILOH EN ESPAÑOL AT THE HISTORIC CHICAGO SHILOH SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE ON APRIL 13, 2024. NESTLED IN THE HEART OF CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE, SHILOH HAS STOOD AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR NEARLY 120 YEARS, SERVING A PREDOMINANTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.**

However, amidst the shifting demographics of recent years, a new wave of immigrants from Central and South America, fleeing political turmoil and violence, found themselves seeking refuge in this urban landscape.

The journey for many of these newcomers has been harrowing, as one guest at the launch shared. Forced to flee their homelands due to the devastating actions of criminals who stripped them of everything, they embarked on a grueling trek, traversing hundreds of miles on foot. Along the way, they witnessed the toll of exhaustion, with some succumbing to its relentless grip. Yet, amid the despair, a glimmer of hope emerged upon their arrival in Chicago.

For these weary travelers, the sanctuary of Shiloh became a sanctuary in the truest sense. Here, amidst the bustling city streets, they found solace and peace, their faith renewed by a community that welcomed them with open arms. In the words of one attendee, unfamiliar with Seventh-day Adventists until now, the presence of God was palpable, a reassuring reminder that they had not been forgotten.

As Chicago grappled with the influx of Spanish-speaking migrants, numbering over

38,000 since the start of 2023, Shiloh recognized an opportunity to extend its outreach. Led by pastors Ariel Padrón & John T. Boston II and supported by Eddie Allen, vice president of multicultural ministries for the Lake Region Conference, the church embarked on a journey to bridge the language gap and meet the needs of this burgeoning community.

Padrón, alongside pastoral intern Oscar Güity and a dedicated team, spearheaded the launch of Shiloh en Español. Their efforts were met with an overwhelming response, as over 50 members of the Hispanic community gathered for the inaugural service. A baptism punctuated the celebration, symbolizing a new chapter of hope and unity.

The significance of this milestone was not lost on those present. Padrón emphasized the unity of purpose that characterized the endeavor, attributing its success to the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit. Allen echoed this sentiment, expressing hope for a future where such acts of humility and service would continue to shine brightly.

For Güity, a seminarian witnessing the unfolding of God's work, the experience was nothing short of transformative. Here, amidst



the diverse tapestry of cultures and backgrounds, he glimpsed the profound impact of collective action guided by a shared mission.

As the day concluded with a communal meal, blending flavors and traditions from diverse corners of the world, Shiloh echoed with the sounds of laughter and fellowship. It was a momentous occasion, a testament to the power of faith to transcend barriers and unite hearts in service to a higher calling.

Travis Price serves as head elder for Shiloh and said he was pleased to experience this new initiative. "Today reminds me that we must prepare for Heaven in every way. I'm proud to be a part of a church that makes room for others in this way."

In the heart of Chicago's South Side, amidst the hustle and bustle of urban life, Shiloh en Español stands as a beacon of hope — a testament to the enduring power of community, compassion and faith. As the journey continues, guided by the unwavering light of God's love, Shiloh remains steadfast in its commitment to embrace all who seek refuge within its walls. ■

**Oscar Güity** is a ministerial intern at Chicago Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church.







▲ The choir sang praises for sustaining the historic Milwaukee Central Church for the last 80 years. "It was wonderful to take a look back at what God has been doing for these last 80 years," said Milwaukee Central's pastor, "and also to look at what God is doing now and will do in the future."

# Milwaukee Central Celebrates 80th Anniversary

**ON SABBATH, APRIL 13, 2024, THE MILWAUKEE CENTRAL SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH CELEBRATED THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER DWIGHT NELSON.**

More than 200 were in attendance as several historical stories from the last 80 years were presented. One of the highlighted stories shared was about the 850 people who attended the dedication Sabbath in 1944 with the then General Conference president preaching that day. Another was about the choir almost being arrested while singing door-to-door during Ingathering in the 1940s.

Thankfully the choir wasn't close to being arrested on this Sabbath as they led out in a beautiful song service and special music. Adam Case, conference ministerial director, had a meaningful prayer over the congregation while Titus Naftanaila, Wisconsin conference president, graciously led out in Sabbath School earlier in the day. The principal of Milwaukee Seventh-day Adventist School,

Jacie Reagan, gave an impassioned offertory and update regarding the largest school in the Lake Union. Two long-time members, Paul and Kathy Freeman, were honored for their years of service with Paul being an original founding member of the Central church.

Pastor Nelson's sermon, titled "American Apocalypse: The Friendliest People In Town," challenged us to show the love of God to those who consider themselves "nones" regarding religious affiliation and to reach out to those who once attended but no longer do. This message fit perfectly with the theme for the Sabbath, "Welcome Home," as we look to reconnect with those who used to attend and our neighbors who do not.

Several ministries were highlighted in the fireside chapel throughout the day. Human Concerns, the ministry that has fed those with

food insecurity for over 40 years, was highlighted along with our amazing Pathfinders and various other ministries. It was wonderful to look back at what God has been doing for these last 80 years and also to look at what God is doing now and will do in the future.

Following the service, a lasagna meal was served. This was the most important time of the day, as food always brings the opportunity to connect with others. As potluck wound down, Nelson prayed a special prayer over the church. We were very appreciative of he and his wife, Karen, coming and sharing our 80th anniversary with us.

My prayer is that there will not be another 80 years left on this earth. We need the Lord to come. Our theme was "Welcome Home," but we also look to the day when Jesus Himself welcomes us to our eternal home with Him. As we took the opportunity to celebrate the work of the Lord, we also add our prayer to that of the apostle John in Revelation 22:20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" ■

**Bill Dudgeon III** is pastor of the Milwaukee Central Church.



Photos by Katie Fellows

▲ Dwight K. Nelson

# Amid Threats to Religious Liberty Come Messages of Warning and Hope

**WHAT DID ADVENTIST CHURCH LEADERS, INCLUDING CO-FOUNDERS JAMES AND ELLEN WHITE, ALONG WITH JOSEPH BATES, DO AND SAY AS THEY WRESTLED WITH THORNY ISSUES OF THEIR DAY? HOW DID THEY, ALONG WITH OTHER EARLY PIONEERS, SEEK TO CONNECT WITH THEIR COMMUNITY?**

These were among the questions at the heart of the two-day Lake Union public affairs and religious liberty summit held April 5–6, 2024, at Battle Creek’s Historic Adventist Village, under the banner “Early Pioneers and Civic Engagement.”

On Sabbath morning, Dwight Nelson, former longtime lead pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University, laid out a meticulous case by skillfully connecting Scripture, church pioneers, America’s problematic history and future. As he stood in the pulpit of the second meeting house, the building where the name Seventh-day Adventist was selected in 1860 as the official name of the church, he shared three

convictions on his heart: “Number one, we are living on the edge of eternity; number two, Jesus is coming soon; and number three, America is in trouble—big trouble.”

## THE ROOT OF AMERICA’S PROBLEM

Last Thanksgiving, Nelson had some friends over for dinner and as the food was being passed, he asked his guests what they thought America would be like by next Thanksgiving? “The moment I say that there’s just this groan.” Why? “We are politically fractured. We are racially fractured. We are spiritually, socially, culturally fractured. We are fractured to the core.”

And this fracture springs forth from America’s history with slavery.

Three weeks ago, Nelson said he came across a discovery in Revelation 18. “Why hadn’t I seen this before?” he asked. The angel proceeds to warn of a fallen Babylon where no one will buy the merchandise. Verse 13 lists several commodities, including metals, precious stones, fine linens, fragrant oils, and ends with human beings sold as slaves. “Babylon has been dealing with the slavery of human souls,” he concluded.

He further described that Revelation 13 illustrates “America is in bed with Babylon.” One clue is the wounded dragon described in the Bible as having two horns like a lamb and speaking like a dragon. “I used to think, it’s a little lamby here and then it becomes like a dragon here,” he said. “Now I realize it was dragon from the beginning. This whole slavery wound is because it was dragon from the beginning.”

## CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

For those who think slavery is in the past, Nelson pointed out the root of slavery is still very much alive and well in America today. “Ever heard of Christian nationalism?” he asked. Christian nationalism is described as a growing movement of American evangelicals seeking to take control of American politics so they can advance their own political and spiritual agenda.

A survey conducted by the Public Research Institute and the Brookings Institute found that two thirds of white evangelicals supported or were sympathetic to Christian nationalism. They were in favor of the government declaring Christianity as the state religion and felt God has called Christians to exercise dominion over all areas of society. Nearly 90% of white adherents to Christian nationalism agreed that God intended America to be a new promised land run by European Christians. “That’s about as racial and racist as you can get,” Nelson asserted.

“God raised up America,” Nelson said, “but the founding fathers never intended to create a Christian nation. The fact of the matter is that God raised up this land to be a safe haven where church and state could be kept apart,

where no king can rule the church and no pope can rule the nation.”

### SPIRIT OF THE PIONEERS

While Christian nationalism reflects a distorted image of Jesus, believers can’t afford to watch what’s happening around them in silence. “We have to reach America before they do,” he implored the audience. “What we do is find the people who are suffering, we find the disenfranchised, the marginalized, and the alienated. We find them and we love on ‘em.”

Nelson said it’s worth noting the early pioneers addressed the issues of their day head-on. General Conference president John Byington joined the anti-slavery society and was an agent in the underground railroad. Ellen White expressed outrage at the Fugitive Slave Act and asked fellow believers not to obey the unjust law. Joseph Bates, a sea captain, described America as a “heaven-daring, soul-destroying, slaveholding, neighbor-murdering country.” Meanwhile, Uriah Smith, editor of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, in 1862 called slavery “the whitewashed villainy of many of the pulpits of our land and the strenuous efforts put forth to foster and extend this diabolical system.” James White in the *Review and Herald* pointed out slavery as “the darkest and most damning sin upon this nation.” Nelson stressed, “They weren’t afraid about writing this and publishing it for the whole America to read.”

Speaking out for justice may have consequences and it may cost you your life, like Jesus on Calvary. “So what?” asked Nelson. “Why not die for something that’s worth dying for instead of living for the paltry visions and dreams that are dying on the vine in our own hearts and lives.

“This is the perfect chance for us and this union to model race, the ethnic groups, blacks, whites, browns, yellows, coming together to do the work together. This is our chance. This is our moment.”

### Radical Rebels

The moment for Adventists to shine has been long in the making, according

to Kevin Burton, director of the Center for Adventist Research located on the campus of Andrews University.

Burton’s hard-hitting exposé on the activism of Adventist pioneers dovetailed Nelson’s presentation, despite neither of them knowing what the other was going to discuss in advance.

The issue of slavery could not be ignored, according to Burton. Between 1619 and 1865, an estimated 10 million slaves came to the United States. They contributed 410 billion hours of free labor.

Many Christians were slaveholders, believing it was not a sin. Most of the U.S. population, many of them professed Christians, were silent on the issue. Their rationale, according to Burton, was that abolition was dividing the church, and they counseled members to “don’t get involved with politics, don’t jeopardize the mission of the church. Focus on saving souls.” Once slavery was abolished in 1865, the United States entered the Jim Crow era, which meant racial segregation.

In rapid-fire succession, Burton unleashed information detailing the pioneers’ refusal to remain silent and on the sidelines. They signed petitions to abolish slavery, dismantle the death penalty, and eradicate the ban on interracial marriage. They joined boycotts and pushed for Blacks to have the privilege to vote.

Burton outlined the rise in 1840 of a political party called the Liberty Party. The party had a platform of two items: immediate and complete abolition of slavery, and equal rights for Blacks. The party was comprised of 10% to 20% Adventists. “I think that number is fairly conservative since I’m basing it off one of the weaker states in the Liberal Party’s history,” Burton explained. Of note, several of the party’s leaders were Millerites, followers of William Miller, who sparked the beginnings of the Adventist church.

Early pioneers were very active in publishing and advocating to change racist policies, as they preached the second coming of Christ. They felt, said Burton, “if you believe Christ is coming soon, if you believe heaven is going to be an integrated place — which most

Christians thought it would be segregated — then you better believe that and live that right now to prepare for the coming of Christ.”

This was also precisely the argument put forth by Michael Campbell, director of Archives, Statistics and Research at the North American Division. He said his extensive studies of the pioneers revealed they were active participants working with a sense of urgency. “One thing [that] kept continually coming through to me is that our pioneers did not just lackadaisically sit on the sidelines and see what happens around them,” he said. “They were active and involved in their world.”

### WHAT CAN WE DO TODAY

For many members, their first impression of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department of the church is one focused on Sabbath accommodation and religious liberty. But Orlan Johnson, PARL director for the North American Division, clarified that the “Public Affairs” side — letting the community know about Adventists — is just as critical. “If you do the public affairs in an effective way, religious liberty becomes easier to do,” he said.

To watch the full presentations, please visit [lakeunionparl.org](http://lakeunionparl.org). ■

Debbie Michel is editor of the *Lake Union Herald*.



▲ Kevin Burton



# Lake Union Pledges One Million Dollars to Attract New Teachers and Pastors

**IN A BOLD MOVE TO ATTRACT QUALIFIED NEW TEACHERS AND PASTORS, THE LAKE UNION CONFERENCE IS PLEDGING ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR INCOMING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO PURSUE CAREERS IN TEACHING AND PASTORAL MINISTRY.**

Beginning in the fall 2024 semester, scholarships will cover four years of study in either of these two fields.

Driving this initiative is the decreasing number of students pursuing careers of critical importance to the church. “We are seeing a real need to recruit more teachers and pastors,” said Ken Denslow, president of the Lake Union Conference. “As educators move or retire, we notice it is increasingly difficult to fill these roles. There are young people who would be open to the call of being educators and pastors, but cost gets in the way.”

Ruth Horton, education director for the Lake Union, has witnessed the declining number of available educators. “Next school year, we are projecting dozens of openings for teachers in our Early Childhood through Grade 12 schools,” she said. “At this time, there simply aren’t enough students graduating from Andrews University to fill current openings and what we anticipate in the immediate future.”

While the number of pastoral openings in the Lake Union is not very large currently, as pastors retire the North American Division is



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projecting up to 2,000 openings across the Division in the next five years. The Division is engaged in tackling the looming crisis.

Moreover, the explosive growth in immigrant and refugee populations throughout the union and beyond creates an opportunity to train those who are called to minister to these groups. “Many of our youth are interested in serving the church but as first-generation students they don’t have the resources to attend our universities,” said Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union vice president for multicultural ministries. “This will be a blessing to them.”

A steering committee comprising union, conference and university leaders is establishing parameters for awarding the scholarship. We expect to announce more details in the coming weeks. The Lake Union joins several other unions in providing scholarships to emerging pastors and teachers.

Lake Union administrators hope this initiative spurs church members to further invest in our future leaders. “This is a faith initiative,” said Lake Union treasurer Glynn Scott. “Other territories were able to use

special trust fund gifts but we’re spending down our reserves. Nevertheless, we believe God will bless as we seek to invest in the mission and future of His church.”

If you are interested in partnering in this specific endeavor, please email [lurf@lakeunion.org](mailto:lurf@lakeunion.org) or call 269-473-8200.

For more information on the teacher and pastor shortages, see the featured stories in the April 2023 and October 2023 Lake Union Herald.

*Debbie Michel is editor of the Lake Union Herald.*

# Andrews University Student Wins Major Music Award

**KEVIN ANTHONY POWELL, AN ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT, RECEIVED A PRESTIGIOUS CANADIAN MUSIC AWARD ON MARCH 24, 2024, IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.**

The Juno award, widely considered as the Canadian equivalent of the Grammy awards, recognizes excellence in Canadian music across multiple genres. K-Anthony won the “Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year” category, for his album titled “Arrow.”

Reflecting on his win, Anthony, who goes by the stage name K-Anthony, expressed a mix of emotions ranging from joy to gratitude to sheer accomplishment. For him, winning the Juno award validates years of hard work, dedication and a deep-rooted passion for music.

K-Anthony said the award is significant for him as it “opens doors for me to do a lot more, where I’m placed center stage to share this wonderful message as a believer and as a disciple. I think it gives me more leverage to bring the message of Jesus Christ to a dying world.”

He traces his musical journey to his upbringing in Jamaica, where the vibrant sounds of reggae and his musical influences shaped his unique style and message. K-Anthony’s songs are crafted with the lyrics front and center with a decidedly optimistic tone, but the underlying theme of his music is his love for God and hope for the future. He’s driven by a strong desire to bring that hope and sense of purpose in life to young people who feel lost and don’t know where to turn.

Looking ahead, K-Anthony aspires to continue creating meaningful music, collaborating with talented artists, and reaching new heights in his career. He sees winning the Juno award as a catalyst for further inspiration, pushing him to explore new artistic horizons while staying true to bringing people closer to God.



▲ K-Anthony won the “Contemporary Christian/Gospel Album of the Year” Juno award for his album titled “Arrow.” Photo credit: [oshane.howard/@fuzereps](https://www.instagram.com/oshane.howard/)

For aspiring musicians, K-Anthony offers these words of wisdom: “Stay true to yourself, believe in your vision, and never underestimate the power of perseverance and hard work. Allow your passion to drive you and trust the journey.” ■

*Nicholas Gunn is a student at Andrews University majoring in education.*

# CLASSIFIEDS

## SERVICES

**Partner with ASAP Ministries** in serving the marginalized and reaching the unreached in Southeast Asia with the wholistic gospel. What you do today can change a life for eternity! To learn more visit [asapministries.org](http://asapministries.org). Subscribe to our weekly Mission Matters videos. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube: [asapministries](https://www.facebook.com/asapministries).

**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](http://apexmoving.com/adventist).

**SDA country church school shopping?** K-8 near Cookeville, Tennessee, with forest school, stream and cave on 30 acres, music program, friendly church, Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs, jobs, colleges, low taxes. Call 931-854-0259 or 423-240-1832, or visit [algoodchristian.org](http://algoodchristian.org).

**Vacation-cottage rental** on four-acre private lake near Cedar Lake, Michigan. Hot tub, trampoline, kayaks, beach, floating swimming dock, firepit, fishing poles, yard games, grill, bikes, board games and more. Perfect for enjoying a family or marriage getaway: three-bedroom (sleeps 10). Text 616-328-2210 for pics and more information.

**It Is Written announces a new VBS program, Flight 3:16.**

During Flight 3:16, children will visit five countries as they prepare for the ultimate destination — Heaven! Flight 3:16 is a complete VBS kit that includes supplies for 14 children. Learn more at [flight316.fun](http://flight316.fun) or call 888-664-5573.

**Adventist Heritage & American History Tour of New England** (Sept 1-8, 2024). Brian Strayer will be your tour guide. Visiting sites such as Hiram Edson's home, William Miller Farm, Sturbridge Village, Boston and much more. Departing and returning from Anderson, Indiana. For additional information or to reserve your spot, call or text Jesse Landess (765-722-0644).

## EMPLOYMENT

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks qualified applicants:** Andrews University is seeking qualified Seventh-day Adventists who may fill open roles in fulfilling our mission to Seek Knowledge, Affirm Faith, and Change the World. If this is of interest to you, please check out our current openings at [andrews.edu/admres/jobs](http://andrews.edu/admres/jobs).

**UNION COLLEGE is seeking applicants for a full-time nursing faculty.** This individual will function as lead course instructor of NURS 322 Medical-Surgical II, including performing didactic

and clinical instruction as well as recruiting and supervising clinical instructors. Doctoral degree preferred, master's degree with desire to continue at the doctoral level required. Full benefits package including health care, tuition assistance, retirement plan, and many other benefits. See job description and instructions for application at [ucollege.edu/employment](http://ucollege.edu/employment).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff Salaried positions:** chaplain, Office of Ministry and Missions. For more information, go to [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff Hourly positions:** automotive technician, lunch cook/supervisor (Village Market Deli), carpentry technician, S.A.L.T. outreach coordinator for School of Religion, alarm technician, dispatch officer (Campus Safety). For more information, please visit [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time program director to launch a new Doctor of Physical Therapy program.** The ideal candidate will be proficient in managing the CAPTE accreditation process, new program development, and teaching graduate physical therapy courses as well as clinical practice. In addition, the successful candidate will be committed to mentoring advisees, nurturing

student learning both in and out of the classroom, and disciplining students in Jesus Christ. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member in the Department of Applied Technology, specifically in the area of Construction Management.** Master's degree in construction management related field is required. The successful candidate will demonstrate competency in the varied trade areas relevant to course content and, ideally, have experience in commercial construction. Candidate must be capable of mentoring university students and have a strong commitment to Christ. For more information, please visit [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty in the area of counseling for School of Education/Psychology.** A doctoral degree in counselor education from a CACREP-accredited program is required. Doctoral degrees in clinical or counseling psychology from APA-accredited program could be considered if applicant has been employed as full-time faculty member in a counselor education program for a minimum of one full academic year before July 1, 2013. For a full job description and desired qualifications, please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time teaching faculty in the School of Business in the area of human resource management.**

Candidates should have a graduate degree (minimum). Doctorate in business-related field preferred. Ideal candidates will have professional work experience in specified area. Candidates will be committed to student learning, engagement and spiritual well-being. For more information, please visit our job board at [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member in the School of Journalism and Communication.**

Master's degree in communication or a sub-field of communication required (PhD preferred). The successful candidate will have teaching and/or industry experience (preferably both) and be able to teach a variety of courses in digital and social media, communication, writing, public speaking and/or photography. Candidate must be capable of inspiring students, have a strong commitment to Christ, and will be a strong team player. For more information, please visit [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY's School of Nursing seeks a full-time Family Nurse Practitioner faculty to join a mission-focused team.** Responsibilities at the graduate level may include assessment and primary case courses, clinical oversight and advisement. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, a strong NP clinical background, flexibility, teamwork and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. To apply, please visit our job board at [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Religion seeks full-time faculty member to begin fall semester of 2024.** Must be active member of Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and should have PhD (or be near completion) in New Testament. Positive experience in pastoral ministry and teaching is helpful. Must demonstrate contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of Scripture, and deep passion for Adventist message

and mission. Good people skills and ability to engage students in a positive, faith-building manner

in the classroom are essential. To apply, please visit our job board at [sau.catsone.com/careers](http://sau.catsone.com/careers).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFERENCE

**Legal Notice:** Notice is hereby given that a regular Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® will be held at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana 46034, on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, at 10 a.m. Duly accredited delegates and delegates-at-large will be authorized to: receive reports; elect a conference president, secretary-treasurer, departmental directors, a Conference Executive Committee, a Board of Education, a Standing Nominating Committee, and a Standing Constitution and Bylaws Committee; enact, amend or repeal Bylaws and vote recommended changes to the Constitution for the Indiana Conference and Indiana Academy; and issue credentials and licenses for the ensuing term. Delegates will transact such other business as may properly come before the delegation. Each church will be entitled to one delegate for the

church organization and one additional delegate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. The organizing committee will meet the same day, Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana 46034. The first meeting of the Standing Nominating Committee is scheduled for Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the Indiana Conference office. Ken Denslow, president of the Lake Union Conference, will serve as chair of the nominating committee.  
*Vic Van Schaik, president*  
*Mark Eaton, secretary-treasurer*

## ASSOCIATION

**Legal Notice:** Notice is hereby given that the Indiana Association Regular Meeting will be held in connection with the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® at the Cicero Seventh-day Adventist Church at 24445 State Road 19, Cicero, Indiana 46034, on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. The meeting of the

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 [www.lakeunionherald.org/advertising/classifieds](http://www.lakeunionherald.org/advertising/classifieds) to either print and fill in your ad or submit and pay through our online portal. 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>.

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>.

Association will be called to order at approximately 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to restate and amend the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and to transact such other business as may properly come before

the delegates. Delegates of the Quadrennial Session of the Indiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are likewise delegates to the Association meeting.

*Vic Van Schaik, president*  
*Vialo Weis, secretary*

# MILEPOSTS

## BIRTHDAY



**Frank Torbert** celebrated his 100th birthday on April 15 with a gathering of friends and family at his nursing home residence. He has been a member of the Robbins Seventh-day Adventist Church in Robbins, Illinois, for over 50 years. Frank was married to the late Mary Torbert. He has one child, Carl, and one grandchild, Kenya.

At the nursing home, everyone knows Frank. He is still giving Bible studies, passing out

literature and books and praying with people daily. He has given out over 70,000 copies of the book "National Sunday Law."

## OBITUARIES

**DE WIND, June (Gebhard)**, age 89; born May 11, 1934, in Long Island, New York; died Jan. 13, 2024, in Grand Haven, Michigan. She was a member of the Holland Adventist Church in Holland, Michigan. She is survived by her husband, Theo De Wind; sons, Greg (Becky) De Wind, Jeff (Kim) De Wind, Darryl (Heather) De Wind; brothers, Paul (Pat) Gebhard, Dan Gebhard; brother-in-law, Frank De Wind; sister-in-law, Grieta Tallios; ten grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. A funeral service was conducted by Pastor Craig Harris on Jan. 19, 2024, with a private graveside service at Olive Township Cemetery in South Olive, Michigan.

## CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

### JUNE

- 1 Local Church Budget
- 8 Women's Ministries (NAD)
- 15 Local Church Budget
- 22 Local Conference Advance
- 29 Local Church Budget

### JULY

- 6 Local Church Budget
- 13 GC Session Offering: Digital Strategy for Mission World Budget (GC)
- 20 Local Church Budget
- 27 Local Conference Advance

**GOLDSMITH, Bettye M.** (McGlothlin), age 102; born June 27, 1921, in Evansville, Indiana; died Jan. 16, 2024, in Dale, Indiana. She was a member of the Huntingburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntingburg, Indiana. She is survived by her brother, Gary McGlothlin; sisters, Mary (McGlothlin) Poth, Kathleen Huff; and several nieces and nephews. A private graveside service will be held later with an inurnment.

**HARRISON, Troy M.**, age 83; born Sept. 17, 1940, in Wayne County, Indiana; died March 24, 2024, in Michigan City, Indiana. He was a member of the Michigan City Adventist Church in Michigan City, Indiana. He is survived by his wife, Claudette Hebert; sons, Pernell Harrison, Chrisman (Mary) Harrison; daughter, Mrya Carol Cook; brother, Michael Harrison; sister, Vivian Beam; and two

grandchildren. A memorial service was held on April 21, 2024, in Indiana.

**MCQUISTION, Alice M.** (Sawin), age 91; born Oct. 26, 1932, in Bloomfield Township, Michigan; died April 15, 2024, in Cadillac, Michigan. She was a member of the Cadillac Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cadillac, Michigan. She is survived by her son, Jeffery (Heide) McQuiston; daughters, Lori (Derek) Aab, Janice (Ernie) Jury, Mona (Chip) Garvin; brothers, Paul (Jane) Sawin, Mearl (Lonni) Sawin; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be held later with an inurnment.

**PETERSON, Jane E.** (Scribner), age 89; born Feb. 27, 1933, in Bancroft, Wisconsin; died Feb. 8, 2024, in Bancroft, Wisconsin. She was a member of the Almond Seventh-day Adventist Church in Almond, Wisconsin.

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



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July 10–22	Santo Domingo, D.R.
July 31–Aug 12	Guápiles, Costa Rica
July 31–Aug 12	Panama City, Panama
Aug 14–26	Bogotá, Colombia
Aug 14–26	La Chorrera, Panama
Aug 28–Sep 9	Quibdó, Colombia
Sep 11–23	Havana, Cuba
Sep 18–30	Juliaca, Peru

Sep 18–30	Puerto Maldonado, Peru
Sep 18–30	Quito, Ecuador
Oct 2–14	Chinandega, Nicaragua
Oct 9–21	Holguín, Cuba
Oct 23–Nov 4	San Juan de la Maguana, D.R.

2025	
Mar 5–17	Jinotepe, Nicaragua
Apr 9–21	Totonicapán, Guatemala

**MORE 2025 DATES COMING SOON**



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# June/July

CLASS OF  
**2024**  
 CONGRATULATIONS  
**GRADUATES!**



## ANDREWS UNIVERSITY

### GENERAL EVENTS

**June 10–Aug. 9:** Andrews University Summer Camp/The Crayon Box Children’s Learning Center  
**July 22–24:** Leadership Conference and Roundtable 2024  
**July 28–Aug. 16:** 2024 Early College Experience

## ILLINOIS

**July 14–17:** Pastors’ Retreat, Camp Akita  
**July 17–20:** Camp Meeting, Camp Akita

## INDIANA

**June 1:** Hispanic Fraternity Day, Indiana Academy  
**June 3–8:** Camp Meeting, Indiana Academy  
**June 8:** One-day Haitian Camp Meeting, Cicero Adventist Church  
**June 21–23:** Hispanic Youth Retreat, Indiana Academy

## LAKE REGION

**June 16:** Adventurer Fun Day, Camp Wagner  
**June 21–29:** Camp Meeting, Camp Wagner  
**June 21–29:** Youth & Young Adult Camp Meeting, Camp Wagner

## MICHIGAN

**June 14–22:** Camp Meeting, Great Lakes Adventist Academy

## WISCONSIN

**June 14–22:** Camp Meeting, Camp Wakonda

## LAKE UNION

**July 12–14:** Mujer de Valor Hispanic Women’s Congress, Shipshewana, Indiana

Events listed were scheduled to proceed at press time. Please call ahead or check event websites before making plans to attend.

## Sabbath Sunset Calendar

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Berrien Springs, Mich.	9:18	9:22	9:24	9:24	9:23	9:20	9:15	9:09
Chicago	8:23	8:27	8:29	8:29	8:28	8:25	8:20	8:14
Detroit	9:06	9:10	9:12	9:12	9:11	9:08	9:03	8:57
Indianapolis	9:10	9:14	9:16	9:16	9:15	9:13	9:08	9:03
La Crosse, Wis.	8:44	8:48	8:50	8:51	8:49	8:46	8:41	8:34
Lansing, Mich.	9:14	9:18	9:20	9:20	9:19	9:15	9:11	9:04
Madison, Wis.	8:34	8:38	8:40	8:40	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:24
Springfield, Ill.	8:24	8:28	8:30	8:30	8:29	8:27	8:22	8:17

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**news**

# Room for Grace

Prayer and health, including personal health and a system to pursue extending the healing ministry of Jesus, are both vital parts of our existence. As a pastor, the times where I have observed this coming together is usually when disturbing news may be on the horizon for a person and family.



▲ JOHN GRYS

If prayer is indeed a conversation among friends (as “Steps to Christ” suggests), then the conversation between God and Moses surrounding the building of the tabernacle can be helpful. God’s desire for His people was to have a place where He could dwell with them. The designed way this occurred was through a tent of meeting. God used very human material to carry out His desire. This is a very biblical model.

God used the most horrific means of torturing and executing a human being as a way of reconciling all things unto Himself. God uses those things generated by humanity as a means of accomplishing His desires. The presence of the tent did not remove the need for the Hebrews to pray. It didn’t remove the personal aspect of walking with this Divine Deliverer. It reinforced the necessity of dependence. God did not set up the relationship with the Hebrews as an either/or proposition. “You either pray at home or come to the tent.” No, He established a relationship that would include both a tent generated by man and a personal connection with Himself. The prominence of this is outlined even more in Deuteronomy 4–6.

When it comes to our own day, is it possible that through the ingenuity of man (originating from the Creator of all creators) God can bring us to places of healing? Is it possible the ingenuity of this Creator of all creators opened the aperture of our own healing both through the medical community extending the healing ministry of Jesus and through our life bathed, immersed and marinating in prayer? And to go one step further, is it possible that since His

house is to be a “House of Prayer” that our congregations are to be places of healing? What if prayer and extending His healing ministry become God’s way of reconciling all things to Himself? Isn’t prayer another form of providing healing and a kind of healing that goes to deeper places within our being, places we may not even now know? Prayer as an act of healing becomes a powerful experience to know that “peace that passes all understanding.”

There are prayers born from heartache and prayers that also bring healing, even at times in the same prayer. Thus, every place where God’s people gather can be a space where God extends the healing ministry of His Son. ■

*John Gry is president of the Illinois Conference.*



# Why That Gift to Your Pastor Requires Caution



▲ JENNIFER GRAY WOODS

Our pastor and his family have been with us for 10 years and the church wants to collect a special offering to treat the family to a vacation in celebration of their years of service. I've heard that the pastor would have to pay taxes on this gift. Is this true?

Many churches want to show appreciation for the services pastors and pastoral staff perform. And often this is done by giving money or other gifts. While these are kind gestures, it is important to know that depending on how the gifts are given and who the gifts are from there can be various tax and reporting implications for the individual, the church and the pastor.

Gifts given to pastors are in most instances treated as taxable. This means that if the church gives the pastor and their family a trip, the pastor should pay taxes for the amount of the trip. As a 501c3 tax exempt organization, a church is not supposed to use income or assets to benefit insiders (which

includes pastors, church staff and board members). This is known as the inurement prohibition. So, giving tax-free gifts to the pastor should be avoided to maintain a church's non-profit status. This is true whether the church gives cash, a check, or a computer, car or other substantial non-monetary gift. Since these gifts are considered taxable income, the church needs to make sure to include the gift in the pastor's W-2 or issue the pastor a 1099 for reporting purposes. The church does not need to report the gifts as income if money is given directly from members to the pastor, but the gift to the pastor is treated as taxable.

There are however some instances where a personal gift from an individual to a pastor is not considered taxable. For example, if the gift is unrelated to the services provided by the pastor. This is usually the case if the gift giver and the pastor have a relationship outside of just that of member and pastor (such as a longtime childhood friend or family member). In this case, the person giving the gift cannot treat the gift as tax deductible, like they would for their tithe, offering or other donations to the church.

It is important for churches to be mindful when giving gifts to pastors to not risk their tax-exempt status, and for pastors to know how to properly treat gifts given by their churches and members so that they don't end up with unexpected tax consequences at the end of the year. ■

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



# Different Times, Same Principles

Associates of biblical research have been excavating at Shiloh since 2017. The archaeologists discovered not only the evidence for the destruction of Shiloh, to which prophet Jeremiah referred several centuries later, but also the place which most likely was hosting the tabernacle of God.



▲ ARKADIUSZ BOJKO

The unique structure is surrounded by adjacent storage rooms which were used for collecting tithes and offerings. Yes, in those early years in agrarian society gifts to God were accepted in natural produce of the land — animals, grain, olive and the like. Collecting them required a lot of different storage space.

Although we live in different times, when in Western societies most of the population lives in urban areas (80% in the U.S.), and we are offering our tithes by placing dollar bills on the plate, clicking the mouse or tapping the screen of a smartphone, we follow the same principles as the ancient Israelites. Those principles are described in the Book of Leviticus 27:32: “And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the Lord.” (NKJV)

The text points to a few realities. First, to practice tithing, every Israelite was to acknowledge God as the sovereign. Second, the tithe is defined as one tenth of the total amount; it is ten percent of the whole. Third, every believing Israelite acknowledging God’s sovereignty and His right to claim tithes as His portion — “holy to the Lord” — was engaging in the process of separating it from the rest of his or her assets. It is a simple, but very important principle. Those who are faithful in returning their tithes to God not only acknowledge God as its rightful owner, but also take the first practical step in this

process. They separate it from the rest of their assets. Comingling what is holy with what is common will never result in faithful stewardship.

Ancient Israelites described in the Book of Leviticus had probably to exercise a lot of physical strength in separating and marking every tenth sheep, goat or cow. For some of us, in our times and context, separating may involve making calculations, notes and placing banknotes in a special envelope with intention of placing them on the offering plate. For others, it is about making an entry on a spreadsheet, doing a transfer between banking accounts, and using the internet-based, digital “Adventist Giving” platform.

Whatever is your way, tithing is a process which involves the same three principles and practices as those accepted and applied by the ancient Israelites. The outcome is always the same, if you won’t separate, it is very unlikely that you will ever donate. ■

**Arkadiusz Bojko** is the Stewardship director for the Illinois Conference.



# Five Key Lessons Learned as a Resident

Raised in a lower middle-class family in Toronto, Canada, my younger self would have never believed one day I would be serving as a finance manager for UChicago Medicine AdventHealth in Chicago.

Throughout childhood, I lost many family members to cancer and other illnesses, causing me to spend a lot of time in hospitals. During those long days and nights, I found a love for the healing ministry. My family and I were treated with such respect and love it made me realize I wanted to make others feel the same way. At a young age, I knew I would pursue a career in health care. I even dreamed of helping create one of the greatest health systems that could serve everyone in need through affordable, accessible and quality care.

After finishing high school, I attended Burman University, where I received a Bachelor of Business Administration in management, then completed a Master of Business Administration with a focus on health care administration at La Sierra University. Currently, I'm pursuing a Doctor of Health Care Administration at Walden University.

My journey with AdventHealth began as a management resident in May 2022 and my experience was exceptional. As a resident, I learned about all areas of hospital operations from key senior executives and subject matter professionals. Now, I can translate that learning into my finance role.

Here are five key lessons and values I learned from my mentors and organizational leaders.

## TRUST IN GOD'S PROCESS

It can be daunting not knowing what will come next. It's easy to worry when financial, career, relational or spiritual milestones you've set have not yet been reached. Take a deep breath. Remember that God brought you this far, and He will take you to where He needs you. Enjoy the journey!

## STAY EXTREMELY CURIOUS

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Understand the myriad domino effects stemming from decisions you make before making them. Always involve and effectively communicate with key stakeholders who will be affected along the way.

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS IS ABOUT MORE THAN MEETING THE BOTTOM LINE

It is about creating a culture where all who enter it feel loved, valued, cared about and inspired. When you have a workforce invested in your mission, you can shoot beyond the stars and key performance indicators will fall in line. Embrace change!

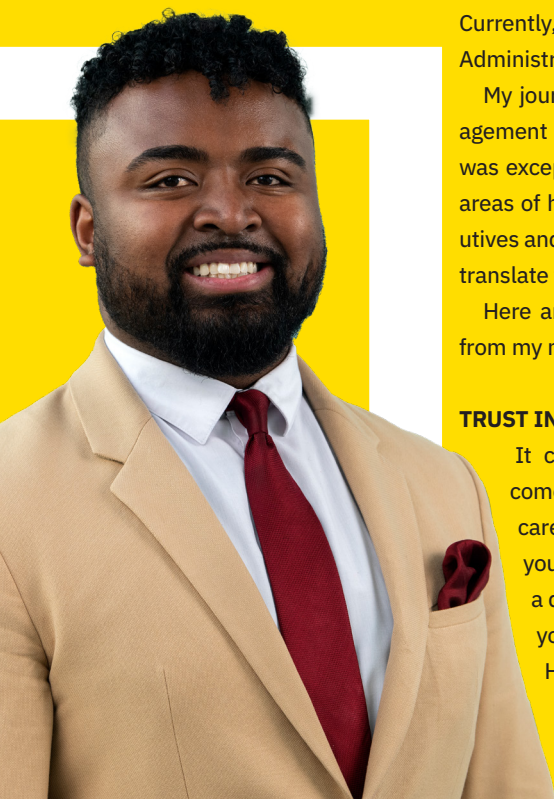
## WORK HARD AND WORK SMART

Leverage your team's experience — involve them and understand they want to make a difference too. At the same time, nothing good comes easy. Diamonds are made under pressure and similarly, developing as leaders requires pressure to bring forth the best versions of ourselves. Challenge yourself to be better than the person you were yesterday.

## FOCUS ON WHAT IS IN YOUR CONTROL

We tend to blame the things outside of our control for missed opportunities or a failure to reach objectives. Sometimes, however, we need to take a step back, understand how we got to our current situation and ensure we create action plans that mitigate repeating the same issues in the future.

**Bob Honest** is finance manager at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth.



# Seek God First

Growing up in Russia in a missionary family and as the daughter of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Sofia Ialysheva always dreamed of attending an Adventist university.

After living in the Philippines for five years, that dream expanded to finding an Adventist university in the U.S. When the time came, she applied and was accepted to Andrews University to study business administration with an emphasis in finance.

Although she enjoyed her classes and the friendships she made, Ialysheva struggled to decide what she might do after graduation. Talking to friends who were upperclassmen, she heard about the AdventHealth internship program. “One of my friends had just completed an internship at AdventHealth in Chicago,” said Ialysheva. “Seeing her photos and hearing her experience, it seemed like she had the best time ever.”

Propelled by the positive experience of her friends, she applied to the internship program when AdventHealth representatives came to visit. In hearing the representatives speak about the organization, Ialysheva felt a connection to what they shared. “My dad always encouraged me to put God first in everything,” she said. “So even if I decided to go into business, I should always have a mission mindset, always put God first, serve Him and find ways to help others. When AdventHealth came and they talked about their mission, their goals and how they operate it just seemed like a perfect fit. I really resonated with their mission.”

Soon after applying, she was accepted as a finance intern at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth for the summer of 2023. When the program began, Ialysheva felt even more certain about her decision to pursue the internship when she saw that the organization’s mission was more than words — it was action. “Everyone actually lived the mission,” she said. “Shadowing different departments and interacting with executives, I realized they didn’t

just say they have a mission. They live it and everything revolves around the mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.”

Ialysheva was able to spend time in all four hospitals of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth, and at the end of the rotation she decided to apply for another internship for the summer of 2024 and was once again accepted to the program. As Ialysheva begins her second internship rotation this summer, she is looking forward to diving deeper into the financial and operational side of the organization.

“In the span of those three months of my first internship, I learned and grew so much in all areas of my life — even spiritually,” she said. “I gained confidence in my skills, developed them further and learned how to add value to every space I work in. As an international student, it has been extremely beneficial to be able to identify my strengths, pinpoint areas for growth and recognize that I can be a leader.” ■

**Elizabeth Camps** is senior stakeholder communications specialist at AdventHealth.

► *Sofia Ialysheva,  
Intern, UChicago  
Medicine  
AdventHealth*



2 SURGERIES

5 ROUNDS  
OF CHEMO

1 RING OF THE BELL

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