

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

THE

ADVENTIST CHAPLAIN

ISSUE 4 2018





SEEKING HUMAN-TO-HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

PERSPECTIVE

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When church members think of Loma Linda University (LLU), many consider it and the surrounding locale as an Adventist Ghetto. As if everyone you meet there are Adventists. Reality is far different! Loma Linda's student body represents 90 different countries, 60 faith groups, and 69 different languages. We are a microcosm of the world. Most students come from various Christian backgrounds with 50 percent of them being Seventh-day Adventist. How does a team of Campus Chaplains care for their spiritual needs!

LLU's mission is "To continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ." Therein lies the way to do spiritual care and the power to do so effectively. Jesus lays out the method in John 13. *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*¹

We are called to love everyone.

The way we love and care for them is in the same way as Jesus did. Within this verse, we discover that we can love the world like Jesus did when we see the world as Jesus did. How we view others is how we will care for them. All too often, we make the distinction between Adventist and non-Adventist. When we do this, our very words reveal that we are placing distinctions based on what we do and believe as opposed to who we are. The first categorizes and makes people with differences the "other." Which inherently means they are not "us" nor a "part of us."

Jesus viewed others differently. The Apostle Paul described it beautifully in Galatians 3. *"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."*²

When Christ looked at people, He saw people—men and women. The other differences are secondary. That's how we, as chaplains, need to see people—that they're just like us. They

CONTENTS

2 | Perspective

4 | Total Campus Engagement

8 | Learning to Lean

12 | God Made It Happen

16 | ACM World

20 | I and Thou

21 | A Life of Faithful Service

24 | NAD Director's Thoughts

26 | An Answered Prayer

28 | CAP Chaplains' Response to
Hurricane Florence

have dreams, heartaches, joy, pains, etc. just like we do. When we focus on our commonalities, we are naturally joined together. If what we first see are the differences, then each difference will drive us further apart.

Class was over, and the students were rushing out the door. As I gathered my things to leave, I looked up and noticed one of my students still remained in his seat. He wasn't approaching me, yet he wasn't leaving. At first glance, it would be hard to find two individuals with more differences: I'm Caucasian, he was not; I'm American; he was far from his nation; I am an older man, he was a young man; I am the professor, he was a student, and I was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, he was a Muslim. Yet he was hurting. He was searching. My demeanor and the words I spoke in class opened up a connection, and he took a chance. I provided a space where we could enter into a relationship—human-to-human. That connection on a personal level pushed aside all the walls of separation that the world builds. It allowed us to enter the space that God created us for, and Jesus sacrificed for to re-establish.

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When we love we are aware of people and their needs. When we love others, we care for them. When they feel loved and cared for, they let us enter into their life and journey with them. And when we do that, Jesus is right there with us. “For where **two or three** gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”³

¹ John 13:34-35, NLT

² Galatians 3:28, NLT

³ Matthew 18:20, NLT

WHAT'S

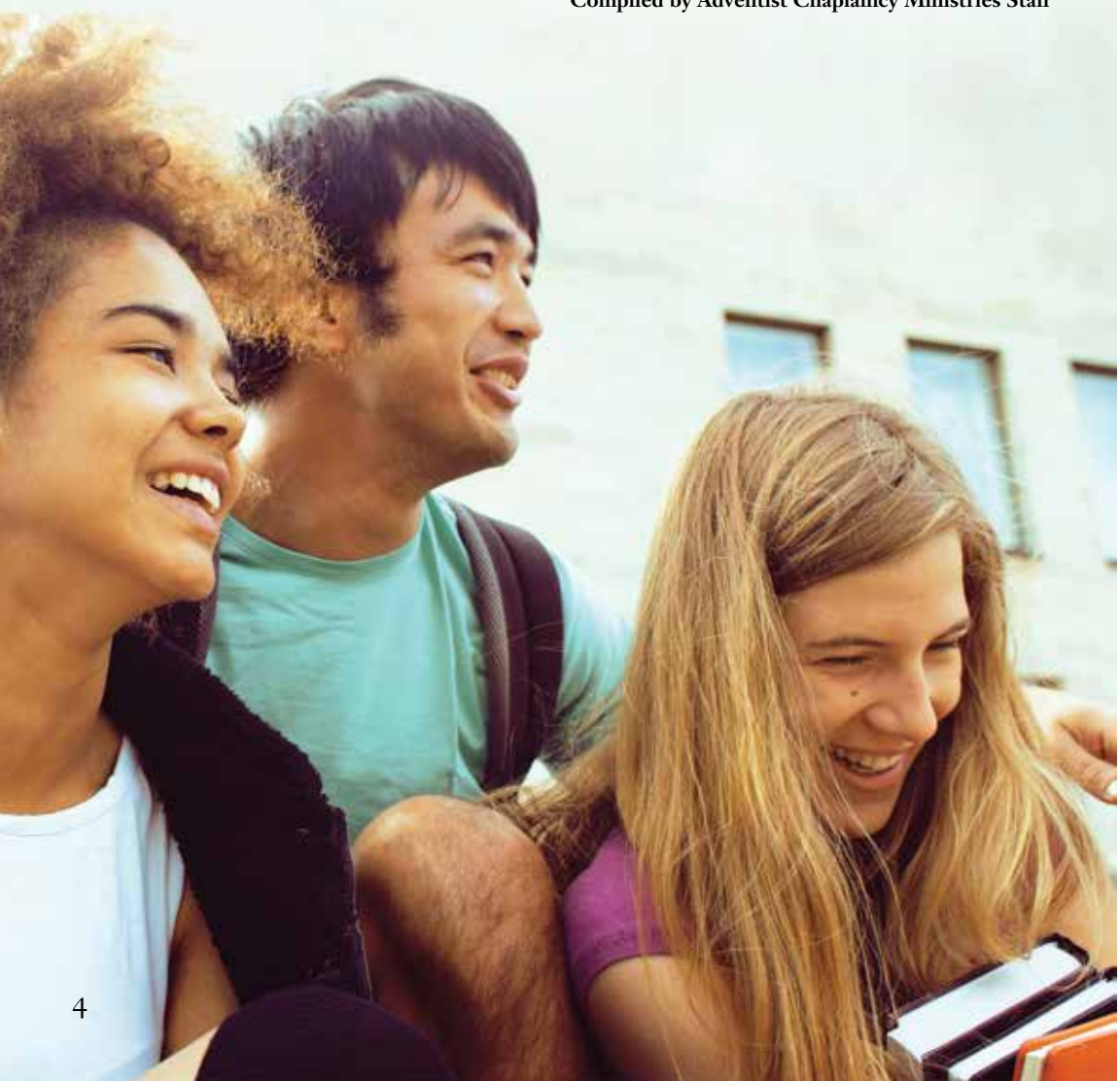


Please share what is happening with chaplaincy in your part of the world.

- Send it to ACMEditor@gc.adventist.org
- Copy your Union and Division ACM Directors.
- Include your email and phone number.

TOTAL CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

Compiled by Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Staff



“I want to practically demonstrate the unconditional love of Christ to every student on my campus.”

A generation or two ago, students on Seventh-day Adventist educational campuses were predominantly baptized believers. Although this may be true of many Adventist educational institutions today, a growing number of schools are experiencing an uptick in non-members enrolling to complete their education.

This offers both a unique opportunity and a challenge to meet the needs of these students. It can test the ministry skills of campus chaplains as they face infusing ministry to an increasingly pluralistic student population. The good news is Adventist campus chaplains are embracing this and finding new methods to serve this population group on their campuses.

WHY MINISTER?

In a recent Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries survey among campus chaplains, several shared their philosophy of ministry to students who don't practice Adventist beliefs. One wrote, “I want to practically demonstrate the unconditional love of Christ to every student on my campus.”

The majority of survey responses included the belief that sharing Jesus with these students is imperative as a part of the ministry of the school. This is not unexpected. Sharing the hope that can be found in Jesus should be uppermost in all of our minds and hearts. One chaplain wrote, “I am convinced that to reach non-Adventist

students on my campus, I should practice what I preach. I should not be a Christian on the Sabbath day only.”

CAMPUS CHALLENGES

The hurdles there are in reaching this group brought a variety of responses in the survey. One chaplain wrote, “Some of them have never entered a church or prayed before in their lives. So, they find it strange to be told about the saving power of Christ.”

Other chaplains have encountered resistance because the students have pre-conceived and incorrect ideas about Adventist beliefs and practices. Ndodanayothando Siwela, a chaplain at Adventville in the South Africa Union said, “They are afraid of their parents who promise to disown them if they change their beliefs.”

Several chaplains shared the same message of the chaplain who wrote, “Students in my Bible study group repeatedly point out the hypocrisy of many Adventists on campus.”

Others agreed with Andrés de Jesús Ruíz Carballo, from the Asociación Metropolitana Adventista Salvadoreña in the Inter-American Division. He said, “I want to reach the students with a relevant message according to their age.”

CHANGING TIMES CALL FOR CHANGING METHODS

Working with students today requires that you cannot assume they will have the same worldview that students of previous generations

held. You must understand what their worldview is and then use relevant means to address it.

At Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, Chaplain Rich Carlson teaches a special section of the Christian Beliefs course that is designed specifically for those who may not be familiar with Adventist beliefs. Adventist students aren't all allowed to enroll in this section. "I've had atheists, agnostics, Buddhists, and Muslims as well as students from mainline denominations enroll," says Carlson. "During the course, we discuss each of the 28 fundamental beliefs. As a class we explore how the Adventist beliefs are the same and different than their faith tradition."

Carlson starts with the premise that the Bible is the Word of God and describes how the Old and New Testaments complement each other. He explores with the students how you can walk into an Adventist church anywhere in the world and find a common worship experience. During the semester, students are required to visit two Adventist churches in the Lincoln metro area.

All students at Union College have the opportunity to participate in the Heart Scan program offered each academic year. "This is a spiritual

mentoring program where the student chooses a faculty or staff member to serve as their spiritual mentor," says Carlson. "With the help of their mentor, the student chooses goals for four areas of their life to work on during the year. Throughout the year, the mentor serves as the accountability partner to the student." At the end of the school year, together they review the student's progress.

What do you do when students choose to pursue a degree, but have no interest in the spiritual component of attending a Christian school. "The situation on my campus is peculiar," writes Okan-Gbenedio Gift Okeoghene from Babcock University in Nigeria. "Our student population of over 10,000 is 90 percent non-Adventist. Sadly, many of our Adventist students are lost in the crowd."

The student population at Kettering College in Dayton, Ohio, is similar. "Only 8-12 percent of our student population is Adventist," says Steve Carlson, the chaplain for the school. "Our greatest challenge is that they aren't coming because they want to meet Jesus. They come because the tuition is affordable, they live in the Greater Dayton area, and we offer the degree they are seeking."

Carlson takes the approach to make



"Our approach is to help them experience that God has wired us to serve others."

the outreach so available that students can't overlook it. "We want our students to hear the message that we want them to *Love Well* in all areas of their life," says Carlson. "The students on our campus are there because they care about the well-being of others. They are planning to enter professions that focus on this caring attitude. Our approach is to help them experience that God has wired us to serve others. This is demonstrated through the life and ministry of Jesus, through God's Creation, through demonstrating compassion to others and throughout the community."

Students see the *Love Well* message throughout the campus on computer screensavers, worships in the classroom, public prayer times where students can observe faculty, staff, and fellow students praying, and more.

Most students don't live in the dorms, so Carlson hosts a monthly Starbucks night. "I meet hundreds of our students as they come through line," he reports. "After meeting them there, when I see them in the hallway, it gives me a reason to interact again with them. This event takes no effort to put together, but the payoff is enormous."

Another opportunity for reaching the students is a once-a-month Friday night meeting in the home of a faculty member, hospital administrator, or local pastor. A simple meal is provided followed by a casual worship time. "When I first arrived at Kettering, on average 12 students were participating," says Carlson. "This number has increased to between

50-60. We've seen the same kind of growth in our international mission trip programs also."

CHANGED HEARTS, CHANGED LIVES

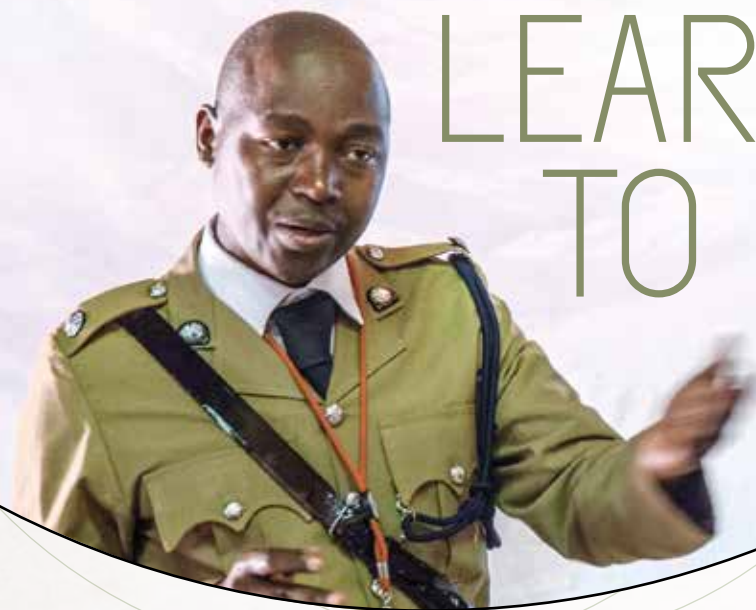
Are campus chaplains making a difference? Is the effort worthwhile? It's difficult to measure what bringing hope into a person's life truly means. But there are changes happening on campuses in the lives of students.

"By the grace God, most the non-Adventist students are becoming interested in knowing more about spiritual things," writes Amevi Agbah from Colegio Braulio Pérez Marcio, in the Mexican Union of Chiapas "Fifty percent of them have been baptized."

"We have annual baptisms," says Patrick Stander, chaplain at Riverside Primary School in Cape Town, South Africa. "We've also noticed that the parents of these students are very positive towards the institution because of the positive changes that they observe in their children."

Ndodanayothando Siwela reports, "Four hundred eighty-two students graduated from the Voice of Prophecy course in a space of six months and eighty of those students have been baptized."

"We are called to minister to this dying world," says Azorundu Peter Ndukwe, chaplain at Babcock University. "We have the privilege of having these students in our schools we have no excuse. We are to teach and preach in season and out of season. Jesus is coming soon."



LEARNING TO LEAN

1

by Chaplain Mabvuto Chipeta,
Malawi Police Service,
with Deena Bartel-Wagner, Editor

American song lyricist John Stallings penned the words, “I’m learning to lean, learning to lean, learning to lean on Jesus. Finding more power than I’d ever dreamed, I’m learning to lean on Jesus.”

Mabvuto Chipeta’s life can testify to these words and the impact of trusting God in his life. The first born of five children, Mabvuto thought he’d find employment with the National Smallholder Farmer’s Association of Malawi, but instead he discovered that Sabbath-keeping would be a challenge. “It was then that I decided to become a literature evangelist,” says Mabvuto. “I enrolled in Malawi Adventist University to begin my classes. I was surprised when the registrar told me that I had joined the pastoral ministry track of classes.”

Mabvuto studied hard and completed his degree in three years. Following graduation, he was assigned to a district where he began his pastoral ministry. “There was a university in my district, and I volunteered to be a

part time chaplain on the campus,” says Mabvuto. “This experience sparked my interest in chaplaincy ministry.”

Desiring to expand his education, Mabvuto earned both a Master in Christian Leadership and a Master in Pastoral Theology. He didn’t know how this decision would impact opportunities available to him in the future.

CHOSEN TO BE POLICE CHAPLAIN

“In 2014, our Union president visited the national police headquarters requesting a place to hold a meeting,” says Mabvuto. “He wasn’t successful in getting a place.”

The next week the Malawi Union received a request from the Malawi Police Service (MPS) asking that the church provide a pastor who would serve as a police chaplain with the MPS. The union asked each

conference to submit names of pastors to be considered for the position. Mabvuto's name was chosen and sent to the MPS.

"I reported for duty at the named location and was given a letter that informed me that I was joining the police service as a regular police officer," says Mabvuto. "This meant I had to attend a six-month training course along with all the other police recruits. After passing the training, I returned to the national police headquarters and waited to be posted to the chaplaincy department."

SACRIFICES AND GOD'S BLESSINGS

Mabvuto waited nine months for his posting while working at Lilongwe Police Station and during that time he depended on God to work in his behalf. "My family had to move from a four-bedroom house

to a one-bedroom house and I took a cut in pay," says Mabvuto. He also lost all medical, educational, and travel assistance.

"We also made a change from church ministry to working in a secular environment. One day, my oldest daughter expressed her feelings to me," says Mabvuto. "She asked me how long I was going to be in this slavery. She wanted to know when we could return to working for the church. My reply was that God watched over us and He would meet all our needs."

Several years later, Mabvuto's family witnessed this in a way they didn't imagine. "My daughter was selected from standard seven to a national secondary school. I was concerned about the amount of the school fees and if we would be able to pay them," says Mabvuto. "When I went to the school office to ask about them, I was told to pay \$20 for the entire term. I couldn't believe what I heard. God

- 1 Chaplain Mabvuto Chipeta shares his experience and insights as a police chaplain.
- 2 Baptisms have resulted because of Chaplain Chipeta seeking religious accommodations for police trainees.
- 3 Police officers and their spouses attended a recent Family Life Conference in Malawi.





4



5

provided an educational assistance for my daughter in His own way.”

MINISTRY TO THOSE WHO SERVE

As a chaplain for the MPS, Mabvuto helps care for more than 14,400 officers. Among that group are over 2,000 Adventists who serve at various levels of the MPS. His ministry includes daily morning devotions, hospital visitations, family enrichment seminars, counseling services, and more.

“We have a total of seven chaplains who work with our police officers,” says Mabvuto. “Five are salaried and two are on contract. They represent the Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic, Muslim, and Pentecostal faiths.”

Mabvuto and his fellow chaplains work tirelessly to meet the needs of the police officers. “Part of our ministry is to equip the officers with spiritual values. We also assist them during any crisis situation,” says Mabvuto. “There are times when our officers are deployed on peacekeeping missions and we hold counseling sessions with them before they go

and when they return.”

Family ministry is also a part of Mabvuto’s outreach. “I teach advocacy courses on positive living, and provide counseling for the officers and their families,” says Mabvuto. “The salaries of the police officers are low and that creates financial stress for them and their spouses.”

Other areas of concern that the chaplains work tirelessly to sensitize the officers in are corruption, integrity, and professionalism. “We also do a lot of teaching in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention,” says Mabvuto. “Across the African continent there is a mushrooming of people who call themselves prophets. They deceive our officers and convince them to stop taking their anti-retroviral drugs, which causes deaths among the force. We encourage them to keep taking the drugs if they need them and to use safe practices if they are not infected.”

Chaplains also must see the needs in the community and help educate the public. “Our department of community policing works closely with the chaplains,” says Mabvuto. “Recently, we’ve been dealing with people believing that the bones of human albinos hold special powers.

They will kill these people and then sell their bones. We've worked with our fellow officers to educate and inform our citizens that this belief is erroneous and wrong."

MINISTRY BEYOND MALAWI'S BORDERS

Educating others isn't just with the officers and communities that he serves. Mabvuto is an instructor for the International Conference of Police Chaplains, and he presented two papers in 2018 on Ethical Policing and Cross-Cultural Chaplaincy in Lexington, Kentucky, USA. He also presented another paper on the "Institutionalization of Spiritual Values" at the 2016 Global Conference of Chaplains in Higher Education in Bendigo, Australia.

MAKING DISCIPLES

Another role of the chaplain is to be the bridge between the MPS and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a chaplain, Mabvuto has assisted Adventist officers who faced Sabbath accommodation issues during their initial police training. He's conducted Bible studies with the trainees and led nine people to accept Christ and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "One of the recruits left his Muslim faith, accepted Jesus as his Saviour, and was baptized," says Mabvuto. "This was one of the greatest joys in my ministry."

The challenges of working as a police chaplain are ongoing, but Mabvuto believes God continues to lead. "My role as a chaplain has helped others understand more about who Seventh-day Adventists are and

what we believe," says Mabvuto. "I continue to develop strategies for evangelism through the family life enrichment and women's ministries courses we can offer. These help to break down people's resistance and create an atmosphere where they are willing to learn."

Mabvuto dreams of having more Adventists serving as assistant chaplains in the MPS and finding ways to increase the profile of the church. He wants to continue to bring hope and healing to the officers and families that he serves.

The struggles, the sacrifices, and the unknown have all taught Mabvuto Chipeta one thing. As a chaplain, as a Christian, and as a Seventh-day Adventist, leaning on Jesus for everything brings the greatest joy and power.

- 4 Family Life Conferences help to strengthen the police officers home-life.
- 5 Chaplain Chipeta encourages police officer trainees to participate in Bible studies.
- 6 At a recent ACM Summit in South Africa, Chaplain Chipeta encouraged more chaplains to enter police chaplaincy.





GOD MADE IT HAPPEN

By Chaplain Hendrik Hutagaol, Loma Linda University Medical Center with Deena Bartel-Wagner

Seven-year-old Hendrik held his classmate's hand as the two boys sat in silence. There were no words to be spoken in the moment. Kulon's* father had just died, and Hendrik sensed his friend's need to have someone beside him.

Hendrik attended the wake, the funeral, and the graveside service. During the following week, Hendrik visited Kulon daily after school to

make sure his friend was doing okay and would return to school. They prayed, talked, and cried together. Hendrik spoke of the possibilities of a better future.

A year later, Hendrik helped another classmate face the death of a parent. His response was the same—one of listening, being present, and showing care.

Albert Schweitzer wrote, "The

purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.” Even as a child, Hendrik sensed his need to serve others who were within his sphere of influence.

A DOUBLE LIFE

Throughout middle school and high school years, Hendrik considered attending the seminary. But his spirit was one of rebellion and calculating. “Early on, I realized that I was excellent in math. I never did my homework but was always ready to solve the problem on the blackboard,” says Hendrik. “My middle school math teacher, who said that she never gave an A to a student, gave me an A. This made me feel triumphant. I began to think that I don’t need to be good, I just have to be smart.”

By wanting to be popular, friends, smoking, and drinking became more important to Hendrik than living a Christian life. “Because I thought I was smart and didn’t need to be good, I refused baptism for years,” says Hendrik. “My mother continued praying. The church elders continued to encourage me to follow Jesus. I finally was baptized on August 22, 1983, but wasn’t converted.”

Even though the church elders continued to recognize his talent as an evangelist, Hendrik lived his old lifestyle in private. “I despised the words of my civic teachers in middle and high school who said that my philosophical mind was way ahead of my age,” says Hendrik. “I disregarded my talents and calling. Eventually, they caught up with me.”

WHAT’S NEXT?

Graduation from high school meant the opening of a new chapter in Hendrik’s life. “I took an aptitude test,

and the result shocked me. It said, ‘you would make a very good pastor or musician,’” says Hendrik. “I thought, I don’t want to become a pastor. They don’t get paid much, but have to be good. I also thought being a musician was a long shot. I played the guitar, but never took any music lessons.”

To prove he was smart, Hendrik took the admission test for business school of a state university and passed. “After a year at business school, I realized it wasn’t for me, so I left the school to return home, hoping to go to the seminary,” says Hendrik.

During the trip, a group of gang bangers robbed him, but Hendrik fought back. “When my father learned about why I wanted to leave business school and the fight on the bus, he smiled and said, ‘Son, you need a lot more patience than that to be a pastor.’ My father insisted that I complete my business education and assured me, ‘If you’re supposed to be in ministry, God will make it happen.’”

So, Hendrik returned to school. Five years later, he graduated with a Master’s degree in Economics and Management.

A 15 YEAR JOURNEY

Various opportunities began to present themselves as options for a future career as he finished business school. “One of my dad’s cousins was a high-ranking law enforcement officer and later became a congressman. Having seen my potential, he came to me and invited me to join the police force,” says Hendrik. “At the time, the police department followed the military ranks. With a master’s degree, I would have started as First Lieutenant and would have been at the top of the ranks today, a Colonel, with the possibility of running for

political office. But, I knew if I accepted his offer, I would not be able to fulfill my desire to live an Adventist Christian lifestyle, let alone to be in the ministry. So, I turned it down.”

Hendrik’s decision to not follow his uncle in law enforcement career angered his extended family who knew that such an opportunity was very rare. People would pay a lot of money to have that chance. “To my surprise, the response of my father, who was in the most awkward position in this saga, was very calm and affirming,” says Hendrik. “Even though he acknowledged that he wanted me to follow his cousin’s footsteps and become a statesman someday, his reply to the scorn of his relatives was, ‘God must have a plan for Hendrik, and that’s why he turned it down.’ He must have remembered his words from five years before.”

After two years fasting and praying, Hendrik received an apparent breakthrough to his desire to live life according to God’s plans and not his own. “I was randomly selected to obtain a green card after my siblings put my name along with theirs into the government lottery system. When I received a letter from the American Embassy, stating that I was invited to become a permanent resident of the United States, I thought I’d finally be able to fulfill my dream to become a pastor,” says Hendrik.

Instead, his plans were derailed when his sister experienced kidney failure after one-and-a-half years on dialysis and needed a transplant. “I was a perfect match, and I knew I had to be her donor. As the surgery date approached, I began to have anxiety,” says Hendrik. “I worried about the success of surgery, my ability to live and function as a normal man, and many other issues.”

The transplant team encouraged him by presenting facts about people who had donated their kidneys, and how they live normal life years and decades after the surgery. At last, the operation was completed in September 1994.

“Following the transplant surgery, I believed that I gave up my opportunity to be a pastor when I decided to return to Indonesia,” says Hendrik. He worked for a marketing firm for a few months but found the work unfulfilling. He made the decision to return to the U.S., and again pursue ministry.

SACRIFICES AND AFFIRMATIONS

Hendrik worked on a contract basis with a local church while studying hard to meet graduate school requirements. “Unfortunately, the contract did not continue, and my family was growing. So I focused on my career in human services,” says Hendrik. “One of the turning points for me came when my boss said, ‘I see a pastor in you’ after I dealt with a employee crisis.” The flame reignited, but Hendrik still had no idea how to pay for his education. Then he discovered that Loma Linda University offers tuition reimbursement, so he secured a job there as a janitor.

Through a series of phone calls, an exchange of information, and applications, Hendrik was accepted into the Loma Linda University Masters in Clinical Ministry program. “My wife and children made sacrifices so I could attend school,” says Hendrik. “My extended family and friends couldn’t understand why I was willing to go back to school so late in life.”

Following his first CPE unit,

Hendrik was halfway through graduate school. He was offered a part-time chaplain position by the director of chaplaincy services of Loma Linda University Medical Center.

“While on my second unit of CPE, I received an invitation to become a chaplain resident at a San Francisco Bay, California hospital, but my CPE supervisor advised me to stay. About two months later, I was asked to fill in for a full-time chaplain who was on a leave of absence.”

When the full-time chaplain did not return, the administration began looking for a replacement. “Many hospital staff encouraged me to apply for the job, and I did,” says Hendrik. “Compared to more than a dozen other candidates, I had the minimum academic and clinical qualifications. The hospital leaders who had seen my work decided to hire me. It was a great honor to serve.”

GOD’S TIMING ALONE

“Serving as a chaplain is a two-way blessing. As much as I help many patients to persevere, they too inspire me to press on,” Hendrik emphasizes. “I was able to cope better as my daughter was diagnosed having autism because I have seen others coping with devastating news. I have come to see God’s grace through times of suffering. With certain individuals, I am open to sharing my feelings and disappointments. I believe this has helped me with my marriage, family, and work relationships.”

Hendrik is known as “the singing chaplain” by patients and staff in his hospital, which partially proves that the result of the aptitude test was accurate. But he is also passionate about forgiveness and reconciliation, which can bring both spiritual and

physical healing to their lives.

“We live in a world full of anger, disappointment, and resentment. I’ve witnessed the healing power of reconciliation when one of my patients was dying, but the doctors couldn’t find anything wrong,” says Hendrik. “Heather* told me that she had cut off her family 25 years ago. She wanted to make peace with them but feared that they would not forgive her. She asked me if I would notify them. I was able to get hold of one of her siblings who arrived the following day. They cried together and said the things they needed to say. Heather walked out of the hospital four days later, a new person.”

The journey from seven-year-old boy to chaplain seemed impossible. But Hendrik’s father was correct. God made it happen. Today, Hendrik continues to hone his God-given gifts of empathy, listening, compassion, and music as he walks the halls of Loma Linda University Medical Center-East Campus Hospital.



ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

SOUTHERN AFRICA- INDIAN OCEAN

2018 ACM SUMMIT



More than 70 chaplains and ACM Directors gathered for the six day 2018 Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries summit held at the Mopani Lodge in Dinokeng, Pretoria, South Africa. The attendees looked forward to a week of training, fellowship, worshipping together, and networking that was organized by Busi Khumalo, Director, ACM-SID.

Chaplains learned about the Philosophy of Chaplaincy from Dr. Mario Ceballos. This presentation set the foundation of the rest of the training. Dr. Vaughn Grant, a chaplain

at Florida Hospital, Orlando, Florida, presented an overview of health care chaplaincy and how to meet the needs of patients, families, and staff.

On Monday morning, Francois Louw, Chief Executive Officer, Director NHN at Vista Clinic, Centurion, Gauteng, discussed the topic of mental health and the need to destigmatize treatment for depression and other mental illnesses. He shared statistics on the toll of poor mental health care in the African community.





It is a growing concern and chaplains need to be equipped to identify when a person is suffering and how to get them the help they need for treatment and healing.

Dr. Beth Grant, Senior Chaplain at Florida Hospital Fish Memorial, shared how on the topic of spiritual and emotional support and techniques to handle stress and fatigue. Chaplains examined the possibility of compassion fatigue in their life

During the week, attendees were exposed to the various areas of chaplaincy, including campus, corrections, health care, military, and police. The chaplains who are currently serving in these ministries led out in breakout

discussions included C. Msimango and Bongani Ndlovu, Beth and Vaughn Grant, Mabvuto Chipeta, and C. Bongani Ndlovu.

Another part of the training included extensive work in the basics of Clinical Pastoral Education. The chaplains learned about visitation with an individual, and how to approach them with questions, how to recognize if personal experiences colored their interaction with the person they were speaking with. Laughter combined with insights on how our past affects the words we speak led to understanding of better ways to minister.

Writing and presenting verbatims took what had been learned and put



GENERAL CONFERENCE



it into action. Several individuals commented that they were already implementing these techniques in their ministry because of previous ACM training they had received.

Dr. Gloria Ceballos provided fascinating insights from her research in Leadership and Emotional Intelligence. Ceballos described how a person's level of emotional intelligence affects their relationships, leadership styles, and work.

The Summit closed with the presentation of endorsement certificates to several chaplains who had completed all ACM-SID requirements.



During the month of October, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is the host department for the General Conference morning worship service. Elder Tom Lemon, Chairman, ACM-GC committee and GC General Vice President and Dr. Mario Ceballos were two of the featured speakers.

Lemon spoke about Daniel and how he responded to Nebuchadnezzar in a time of crisis.

He reminded listeners that none of us can control the things of this world. While we are not in control, we do not have to go out of control when we are under His control. Ultimately, God is in control.

Ceballos reminded listeners that even in our most extreme moments, God reminds us that He is present, powerful, and hasn't forgotten us.

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



More than 40 Adventist Military Chaplains from the North American Division met for their annual Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries training at the North American Division headquarters.

EAST CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

BUGEMA UNIVERSITY

The School of Theology at Bugema University, with more than 500 students, is one of the largest in our denomination. This year they will graduate more than 130 students. Some of the graduates will pastor churches. Others will minister as chaplains in schools. Some of the



graduates will be planting churches and some will be looking for ministry opportunities in correctional and military chaplaincy.

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION



“It was an overwhelming experience to be received so enthusiastically by the faculty and students of the School of Medicine during an Adventist Accreditation Association (AAA) visit at the Universidad Peruana Unión in Ñaña, Peru,” says Dr. Mario Ceballos, Director, ACM-GC. “This is one of our denomination’s largest universities. During the visit I met with the University’s chaplains to learn about their Spiritual Master Plan and their ministry to students, faculty, and staff.





I and Thou

By Chaplain Cheryl Simmons, M.Div., BCC,
Staff Chaplain, AnMed Health Hospital, Anderson, South Carolina

Philosopher Martin Buber says in his book, *I and Thou*, that there are two types of relationships in the world. “I and thou” relationships are person-to-person and “I and it” relationships are person-to-object.

Having a compassionate heart in health care keeps us from turning people—patients, colleagues, friends, family—in our lives into *IT* people. You know what I mean by *IT* people. When we treat the bank teller no differently than we do an ATM machine, we have turned the teller into an *IT* person.

When we treat a patient or family member with indifference, we have

turned that person who has come to us for tender care and loving compassion into an *IT* person. God doesn’t treat people in this manner. God notices and hears every one of our prayers, thoughts, and feelings. Because God loves us unconditionally, God has an I and Thou relationship with every single human being.

As people who are created in God’s image, we too have God’s heart for others and thus we are to see people as God does—precious and deserving of being more than an *IT* person.

May each of us, created and beloved children of God, see with the eyes of God and act as if those we see are Thou as well.

A LIFE OF FAITHFUL SERVICE



World War II veteran and Civil Air Patrol Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) Ivan Peacock fell asleep in Jesus on June 5, 2018. He was 101.

Peacock served in the U.S. Army as a medic during World War II. During his college years, he enrolled in the Medical Cadet Corps program and received training that prepared him to be an aid man on the battlefield.

Originally, Peacock's unit was scheduled to go to North Africa, but was instead reassigned to Australia. Peacock worked in the dispensary and eventually were moved to Oro Bay in New Guinea.

In 1944, Peacock's unit moved to the Philippines, and the unit was part of the amphibious invasion of Leyte. Twice during the unit's landing Peacock was nearly killed by bombs being dropped on the troops by kamikaze pilots.

Following the war, Peacock continued his life of service. He

served as a missionary in Iran, Honduras, Thailand, and Canada. He and his family eventually settled in Tennessee, where they raised their family, helped raise up a local Adventist congregation, and Peacock's desire to serve others continued throughout his life.

At the age of 79, he joined the Civil Air Patrol and was the chaplain for the Sumner County Cadet Squadron in Gallatin, Tennessee. He held this position for 20 years until his retirement at the age of 100 in 2017.

Lt. Col. Peacock's life was one of faithful service for God and Country.



Chaplain Peacock with Civil Air Patrol Chaplain, Lt. Colonel Sergio Freeman.

The **Seventh-day Adventist Church** and **Military-Related Service** CONFERENCE

APRIL 10-11, 2019

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Headquarters
Silver Spring, Maryland

The 2019 worldwide conference is designed to create awareness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church official position on military-related service.

THE CONFERENCE WILL:

- Explore and discuss viable options on how to support the individual member and the way they follow their conscience. Regardless of the individual's choice, it is imperative that no one be made to feel denigrated because of their decision to serve. Respect for the conscientious decision of the individual church member is crucial.
- Discuss Sabbath-keeping challenges and ways for Adventists who serve in uniform, e.g. military, police, fire, emergency services personnel, park rangers, game wardens, security guards etc. to follow their conscience and church guidance without fearing reprisals from their fellow church members and or church discipline.
- Recognize the service of Adventists serving as non-combatants, such as, but not limited to, the "Whitecoats."



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

WorldServiceOrganization.org/2019WSOConference.

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COUNTING ALL JOY



So, I fell into 2018 like a skydiver exiting his aircraft. Most of the year, for me, due to multiple bereavements, has been like an elongated free fall. Yet ACM has hurtled forward due to the diligence of the staff. Dina, Art, Washington, Ivan, Bill and our spouses have been unrelenting in the excellent performance of their passionate commitment to their chaplains.

ACM has endorsed 48 chaplains this year. Unfortunately, five of our chaplains decided to seek new endorsers. To that point, let me urge that we coalesce and follow the appellation of the writer of Hebrews that we encourage one another. Practice bonding with each other and our families. And yes, there may be appropriate times for intrusive leadership and “carefrontations.” While I do not subscribe to tattling, we are a fraternity with high standards. Because of the high calling, perhaps our integrity must shine brighter.

Like the Aspen trees in Colorado, intertwining root systems prevent the erosion of the soil in which they grow and stand. Isolation in ministry is fertilizer for the soul-eroding challenges that we all face. That makes accountability ever more imperative. When we must share honestly with accountability partners, our behavior is automatically calibrated. Now back to my former stream of thought.

ACM has visited most of the states where endorsed chaplains are working. We have visited with the chaplains, church members, and students in the northern provinces of the Adventist Church in Canada, Kenya, Uganda, Germany, Japan, Korea, Puerto Rico and toured Israel with 20+ members of the ACM family. While there, I was baptized in the Jordan River, by a woman.

The Seventh-day Adventist Health Care Chaplains Association convened and celebrated the commissioning service of one of our female chaplains. We should do that again. We attended the NAD Women in Ministry Conference this summer. Over 200 female pastors attended. More than 30 of them were Chaplains.

We celebrated Adventist Veterans at the North American Division Headquarters a few weeks ago. Over 200 people attended. It was a wonderful and classy affirmation that set a high bar. Many of the veterans have insisted that it must be done again.

As 2018 ends, it gives a natural opportunity to pause and count the many blessings that have been received. Even our trials have borne seeds of transformation. If the blessings are obscured, the platitude of James might well apply.

"My brethren, *count it all joy* when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."*

As we enter 2019, join me in the patient practice of delighting in the Lord; dreaming in His Omnipotence, and desiring His providence.

**James 1:2-3*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul A. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

An Answered PRAYER

"Hi this is Elvia, your server from yesterday's breakfast. I wanted to share some important news with you!"

by **Ivan Omaña,**

Assistant Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries—
North American Division

Chaplains do pray, though one of my CPE supervisor's would say that sometimes we use prayer as a tool to deal with our own anxiety of being in a room with strangers. Nothing wrong with using prayer in such a manner.

Today I share a different prayer story. Every year, within the context of the Association of Professional Chaplains Conference, ACM holds a Faith Breakfast. Simply put, this is a time for the Seventh-day Adventist Chaplains to share together a meal and some time for reconnection. In the last two years, I have made it a point to start our meeting with a special prayer on behalf of people who, though extremely important, are at times ignored. Those who lovingly and professionally serve our tables.

At the beginning of our breakfast meeting in Anaheim, California, I asked, Jaime, Elvia, and Anna to come to the front of the room to introduce them and then lifted up a prayer for them. It was a simple prayer of blessings and intercession.

After the prayer I noticed that Anna was crying. She came close to me and whispered in my ear "I needed that."

Now my curiosity was piqued, so I followed them to the back of the room as people kept coming in and finding their places around the hall. Anna told me that her brother-in law had been kidnaped in Guadalajara, Mexico and the family had not heard back from the kidnappers in two weeks. She was afraid he was dead.

As I listened, my mind went to the



experience of Peter and John as they are being held captive. The temple guards are keeping watch, but the angel of the Lord comes and the guards sleep so soundly that Peter and John simply walk out of prison to return to the temple and continue to preach the very next morning. I shared that story with Anna as her eyes flooded with tears. We closed with a prayer as she ran to the bathroom to compose herself and continue her duties. At the end of the breakfast, I asked the team of chaplains to keep Anna and her family in prayer for an “unspoken request.”

During the plenary lunch of the conference, the very next day, my phone began vibrating. I saw a number that I did not recognize so I sent it to voicemail. A few seconds later I received a text message that read: “Hi this is Elvia, your server from yesterday’s breakfast. I wanted to share some important news with you! I would appreciate it if you would call me back at your convenience. I

look forward to hearing back from you.” I responded, telling her I’d call as soon as the meeting was finished. She just responded with the phrase, “It’s a miracle!”

Now, I had to take the time to see her! Although the speaker was doing an excellent job, I kind of lost interest. I had to hear about that miracle! When we finally found each other, Anna and Elvia were accompanied by their supervisor who was very apologetic. The supervisor informed me that they literally hounded her for my phone number out of the contract that we signed for the services provided. She was also in tears. Only six hours after our prayer, the Mexican federal police found Anna’s brother-in law. He had been taken to a hospital and although banged up and in need of medical attention, he will be okay. A family is reunited. Prayer continues to be the key that opens the storehouse of Heaven, and man’s greatest need continues to be God’s opportunity!

CAP Chaplains' RESPONSE TO HURRICANE FLORENCE

by Chaplain, Lt Col Marcus L Taylor, CAP
Middle East Region Deputy Chaplain (MER/HCD),
Coordinator for Chaplain Support, Hurricane Florence Response Mission

The presence of the CAP Chaplain Corps was both seen and felt during the recent response mission for Hurricane Florence. I am happy to say that the CAP Chaplain Corps provided a spiritual presence for this mission, as a call up for all available personnel who could deploy went out, first to all North Carolina Wing (NCWG) Chaplain Corps personnel, to report for duty to give Chaplain Support to this mission. Plans were also in the ready to expand that call to our Chaplain Corps personnel in nearby wings and regions, as the need arose for additional personnel to help with this arduous task.

I served as the Chaplain presence and coordinator for Mission Chaplain Support at the Incident Command Post (ICP), North Carolina Wing Headquarters (NCWG HQ), Burlington, NC, for the entirety of the mission. Two of our CAP Chaplains from the Middle East Region (MER), Chaplain David Bobbey, NCWG, and Chaplain Deric Dunn, MDWG, were



Chaplain, Lt Col Marcus L Taylor, CAP, Middle East Region Deputy Chaplain (MER/HCD), at Chaplain Station, ICP, NCWG HQ.

deployed to the field and spent a week serving on site in the Kinston, NC and Wilmington, NC areas. Chaplain, Lt Col Wayne Byerly, Head Chaplain for the Middle East Region (MER/HC), and I were able to fly into the Wilmington area on Wednesday, 19 September, and visit our personnel that were manning three Point of Distribution (POD) locations in the area, to monitor their morale and overall well-being, and the well-being of the other first responders in those



Chaplain, Lt Col Marcus Taylor leads one of the Sunday worship services for the members of Civil Air Patrol supporting the Incident Command Post (ICP) at the Headquarters of the North Carolina Wing (NCWG) during the response to flooding from Hurricane Florence in September 2018.

areas. We also toured some of the devastation in the inner community areas, and the housing facilities for our CAP personnel, National Guard personnel, and first responders.

On the mornings of 16 September and 23 September, I was able to provide a brief Devotional Worship Service, at the request of the NCWG Commander, Col R. Jason Bailey, for the CAP personnel who were hard at work, manning the ICP at NCWG HQ, in Burlington, North Carolina. These men and women were giving of their time, training, and energy preparing for and providing assistance, where called upon, by our federal, state, and local agencies, who were attempting to respond to the vicious onslaught of Hurricane Florence.

Although we were beginning to ramp back some of our activity relative to this mission by 26 September, the chaplain presence continues to be made available to our members at the ICP and in the field, and to those

who need us, in the days, weeks and months ahead, as the aftermath of this vicious, devastating storm continues to unfold, and the long-term work of putting lives and lifestyles back in place continues. It is the post-event time frame where the real work of spiritual support and care are needed. Although this effort is largely turned over to local clergy and church support groups, we stand ready as CAP Chaplains, to give further support to the on-going recovery effort as needed. This is especially true, due to the fact that, there are always CAP personnel and their families who are also direct victims of these crisis events.

Though we work behind the scenes and don't get added or factored into the "press," I am glad to say that there was CAP Chaplain Corps presence and involvement in the response mission for Hurricane Florence. I am **very** grateful to Chaplains Wayne Byerly, David Bobbey, Steven Mathews, and Deric Dunn for making the sacrifice to be "boots on the ground," both at the ICP with me, and out in the field. I am also **very** thankful to the many CAP Chaplain Corps personnel who responded to the call, checked in, and were on standby alert, and pledged their availability for the days and weeks we expected to be engaged in this mission. We were not in the limelight—but we were there! And we are prepared to be there beyond the duration of this mission to proudly support our affected CAP personnel who reside in the affected areas, and all else who need us following this time of crisis. "Soli Deo Gloria!"

For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6, NLT



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THE ADVENTIST CHAPLAIN is a quarterly publication of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM), the ecclesiastical endorsing agency of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church.

This journal is distributed worldwide to chaplains, church leaders, institutions, and others involved in chaplaincies. To be added to our mailing list, please visit our website at AdventistChaplains.org, or email ACMEditor@gc.adventist.org.

Comments and/or articles will be considered for publication. Contact the editor at acmeditor@gc.adventist.org. Include your full name, complete mailing address, telephone, e-mail address, and current digital photos with all submissions. Items submitted by mail will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped return envelope.

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Those who hunger for knowledge
that they may bless their fellow men
will themselves receive blessing
from God. Through the study of His
word their mental powers will be
aroused to earnest activity.

— Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 357



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