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# ADVENTIST CHAPLAIN





# THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

## PERSPECTIVE

By Mario E. Ceballos, D. Min., BCC

Director/Endorser, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries – General Conference

**C**hange happens and is a fact of life. During the global pandemic of COVID-19, we know that our world will change forever. But change is not a new thing. Our world has continuously been changing, but now it is faster and more profound than ever.

The challenge is that change generates frustrations, disappointments, and unmet expectations. As chaplains, we deal with people coping with dramatic and critical changes, as well as the change in our own lives. How we manage those changes in our lives will help us prepare to minister to people facing changes. We need not fear change because, ***“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change, and though the***

*mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof.”<sup>1</sup>*

As a church, we have also confronted all types of changes, including theological positions. It happened in the 1890s, and that change generated pain to those involved. Various individuals responded to it in different ways. Some were able eventually to accommodate to the “new theology.” Others, however, found accommodation impossible.<sup>2</sup>

The key is in how we embrace change. This behaviour can minimize fear, anxiety, and the stress that usually accompanies change. We must understand the change process and, then, develop new ways of accepting challenges and the change into one’s

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life.<sup>3</sup> We call the result of change in a person's life, the "New Normal."

Chaplains work in a context of constant change and on all levels. Chaplains come face-to-face with people. Some are hospital patients. Some are service members coming from the battlefields or from long deployments. Others are policemen and policewomen or firemen and firewomen. There are students facing failure or the death of a parent. We come face-to-face with the living and dying, and this challenges us to understand who these people are and how we should respond to them.

We need to see change as a bridge. At the beginning of the bridge, we face a problem. We need to deal with something in a different way. A change thrust upon us, a loss, or a realization that a change is happening. At the beginning of the bridge, we reflect, react, or rebel until we can accept the idea that things are about to transition. Then we will be able to move forward. Once we can begin to view the bridge's path, it's possible to take a few steps forward. We linger on the bridge, hoping we can turn the situation around. Sometimes the transition is brought about because

of the loss of a job. We wallow in the hurt until we reach the end of the bridge. Then we realize it was the best thing that could happen to us.

The challenge of getting across the bridge to the other side is managing our emotions. During the crossing, we need to experience fear, frustration, disappointment, hurt, or tears. Change is frightening because it thrusts us into the unknown. How we face it can help the outcome, and more often than not, the result is better. This is the movement from what we see as the "Normal" we are accustomed to, and the result is a "new normal."<sup>4</sup>

In his 1933 inaugural address, Franklin D. Roosevelt said: "The only thing we have to fear is...fear itself."<sup>5</sup> Let us remember that "*God is our refuge and strength...*"<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Psalm 46: 1-3 (ASV)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1993/10/adventists-and-change>

<sup>3</sup> <https://thriveglobal.com/stories/living-a-better-life-through-challenges-and-change/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://thriveglobal.com/stories/living-a-better-life-through-challenges-and-change/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First\\_inauguration\\_of\\_Franklin\\_D.\\_Roosevelt#Inaugural\\_address](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_inauguration_of_Franklin_D._Roosevelt#Inaugural_address)

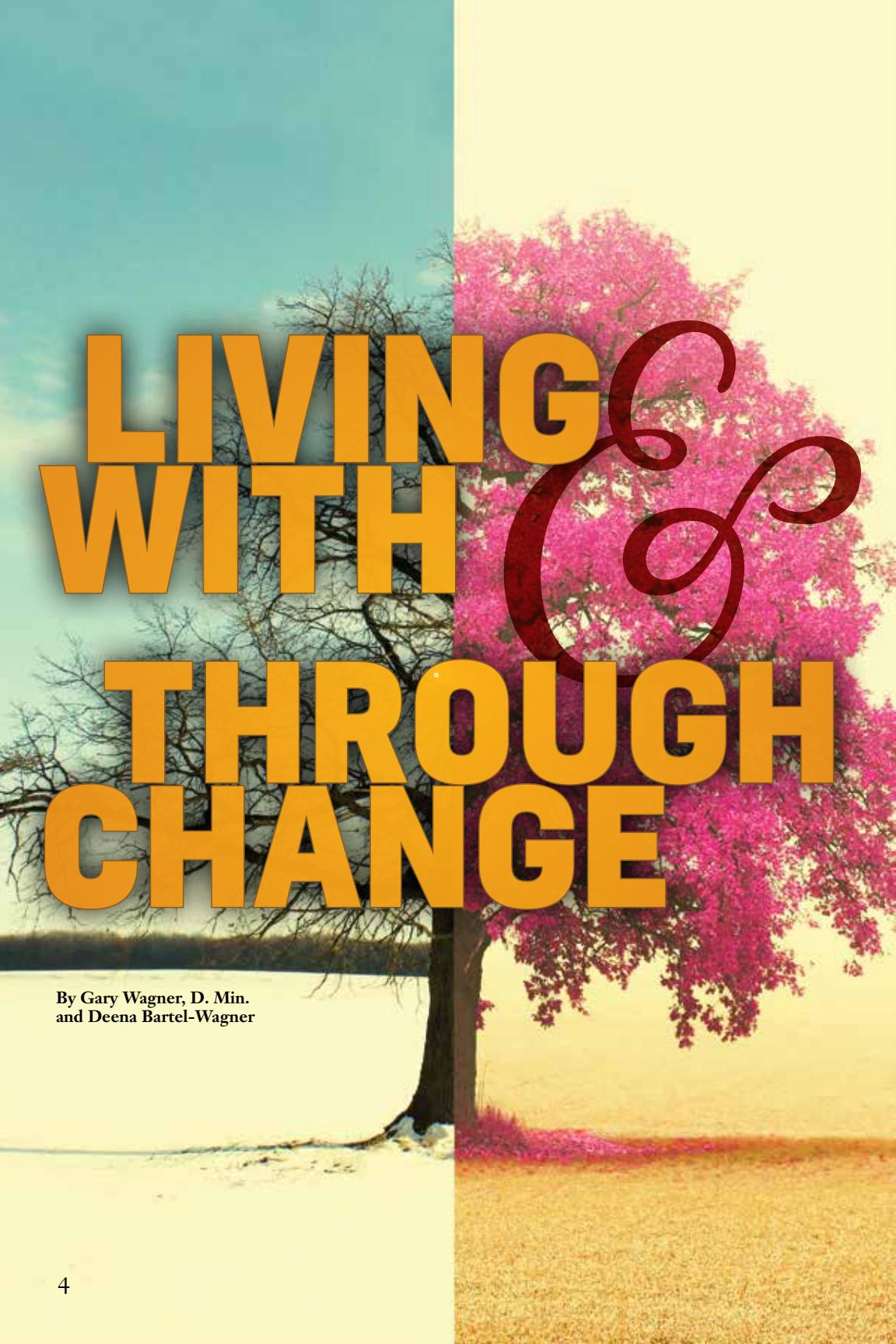
<sup>6</sup> Psalm 46: 1. (ASV)

# WHAT'S

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



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



# LIVING WITH CHANGE

The title "LIVING WITH CHANGE" is displayed in large, bold, yellow-orange letters. The word "LIVING" is positioned above "WITH", and "WITH" is partially obscured by a large, stylized red infinity symbol. Below "WITH" is the word "CHANGE", which continues the theme of the infinity symbol.

By Gary Wagner, D. Min.  
and Deena Bartel-Wagner

The writer of Ecclesiastes opens chapter three with the words, “For everything there is a season, a right time for every intention under heaven.” As seasons of our lives move, we experience change. The events of our lives shape and mold who we become. How we react to change can be a defining point of our lives and even of our character.

Transitions in our lives can look and come in different forms. When a negative event touches us, it becomes much more difficult to find our way through without allowing hurt, bitterness, disappointment, or even anger to consume us. How we survive the set-backs and bad things that happen in life must be grounded in our principles as believers.

## OUT OF UR

Abraham was minding his own business when change came in his life. God called him to leave everything he'd ever known—including family, business, home—to set out for a land only God knew.<sup>1</sup>

Abraham, and probably Sarah, most likely experienced several emotions with this command. Fear probably nipped at their heels as they imagined moving to a land where the language was foreign, the culture was one they had no experience with, and the traditions were not set in the rhythm that they knew of their homeland.

They also felt the pain of leaving family members and friends behind,

knowing they'd never see each other again.

Then there's the risk. Did Abraham have moments where he wondered if he'd understood God correctly. Was he really supposed to let go of the security of the familiar—home, possessions, wealth—to journey to an unseen land?

## WHY DO WE STRUGGLE WITH CHANGE?

Have you ever wondered what life would be like without hurts, disappointments, expectations that weren't met, or challenges that seem overwhelming in the moment? Do you believe you'd be stronger without them? On the contrary, without these, we as humans don't grow and stretch to who we can become.

Being able to cope with change builds our resilience. In turn this can boost our capacity to deal with change and the effects it can bring in our lives. According to Kathleen Smith, PhD, LPC, there are several steps you can take to cope with life events, while building resilience.<sup>2</sup>

1. What level of control do you have over what is happening? Is there something you can take responsibility for in the events that are happening? This empowers you and makes you feel less stuck.
2. After suffering a loss, you need to practice self-care. Whether the loss is a job, a move to another city or

How we react to change can be a defining point of our lives and even of our character.

# Whether you are experiencing disappointment or loss now or in the future, remember that God is the calm in the storm you are experiencing.

state, the death of a loved one or of a relationship, you need to take time to grieve. It's important to acknowledge that a loss has occurred and what that means to you.

When you make a change that you look forward to, grief is also a component. Just because you've landed your dream job doesn't mean you'll not have regrets over making the move. Pay attention to your feelings and those of any family members affected. What have you learned from your experience and how will that help you in the future?

**3.** Be in the present. It's often tempting to look back to the comfortable and known and dwell on the past. Or, perhaps, you may find yourself worrying about the future and mistakes you might make. Instead focus on the present, how you can be most effective in the current situation.

**4.** What are your thought patterns? Negative thoughts can wash over us in times of change. These thoughts can sap your energy, divert your focus, and cause feelings of anxiety and depression.

Again, using a proactive approach will help you manage your reaction.

You might be experiencing thought distortion. This can include seeing everything one way or another, with no in between.

Perhaps you are assuming all blame for anything that goes wrong, whether it's something you did or not. Or you are only seeing the negative side of the situation. If you are assuming only the worst can come out of the situation, then you are catastrophizing.

You can challenge your negative thoughts by evaluating whether they are accurate or not. If you find that you are becoming mired in the negative, take a break and focus on positive events in your life. Write these down and refer back to them. Keep adding to the list on a regular basis. What are your strengths? List these and find ways to put them to work in the current situation.<sup>3</sup>

## LET IT ALL GO

Change didn't just happen for Old Testament people. A young, wealthy man who held power questioned Jesus about obtaining eternal life.<sup>4</sup> Although he may have been looking for a checklist of "Do this, and Don't do that," Jesus challenged him to a greater type of change.

The young man had established his value system around money, power,

and possibly fame. His question hints at his pride in “keeping the Law.” For him, the Law seemed to offer security in defined parameters of behavior. His wealth and status elevated him in his sphere of influence. He enjoyed the prestige that came with wealth, position, and deference.

Jesus asked him to give up all of that. Instead, Jesus asked that the man become dependent on Another for him to be covered in perfection. Jesus wanted him to trust Another for his sustenance (he was to sell all he had and give it to the poor). For the young man, these very concepts were psychologically and spiritually painful.<sup>5</sup>

During transitions, our faith may be tested. The pain of loss may overwhelm. Looking at them in another way can be helpful. In *Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Life*, Dr. David Stoop notes, “*Life’s trials can be a part of the discipline we need in order to experience all that God wants for us. They train our soul to do what God designed it to do. If we take the imagery that Paul is using (1 Corinthians 9:25-27) and put our life’s trial into that context, we can begin to see that God’s purpose in allowing that particular trial might be positive. It may be that we need to purify our life or mature in our faith in some way. Or maybe there is something else God wants us to learn through the situation.*”<sup>6</sup>

Abraham accepted change and left Ur. Yes, he met challenges along his path to the new land. He made mistakes, told some lies, was tested with sacrificing his own son. But in the end, his faith carried him through and he became the father of many nations. His faith became a blessing.

The wealthy, powerful young man couldn’t make the changes required of him. He left the presence of Jesus in

sorrow. Do you think depression and anxiety accompanied that choice?

In Luke 21, Jesus talks about suffering and the fearful events His followers would face. And He also talks about testimony. In verse 13, Jesus says, “And it shall turn to you for a testimony. E. Stanley Jones interpreted verse 13 this way. *“Jesus makes a declaration that throws a flood of light on the whole problem [suffering] and his attitude toward it: ‘It shall turn unto you a testimony,’ or as it has been translated, ‘It shall turn out for you as an opportunity for witnessing.’ In other words, He says, ‘You are to take hold of these calamities and turn them for a testimony—you are not to escape trouble, nor merely to bear it as the will of God; you are to use it.’ He suggests that we are to take up pain, calamity, injustice, and persecution, admit them into the purpose of our lives and make them contribute to higher ends—the ends for which we really live.”*<sup>7</sup>

Whether you are experiencing disappointment or loss now or in the future, remember that God is the calm in the storm you are experiencing. His purpose for your life is to live in victory, not in anger or fear. “In a wrong-filled world we suffer (and cause) many a wrong. God is there to heal and comfort and forgive.”<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 12:1

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.psychom.net/dealing-with-change>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/za/blog/women-s-mental-health-matters/201509/7-ways-deal-negative-thoughts>

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 19:16-22

<sup>5</sup> <https://bibletalk.tv/the-challenge-of-change>

<sup>6</sup> Stoop, David. *Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Flemming H. Revell, 2018, p. 203.

<sup>7</sup> Jones, E. Stanley. *Christ and Human Suffering*. New York, NY: Abingdon Press, 1933, p. 72.

<sup>8</sup> Elliot, Elisabeth. *A Path through Suffering*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2014, p. 32.

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Experience is still open. Plan to  
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office or home.

You'll receive specialized training,  
ministry renewal, and continuing  
education credits.



**3<sup>RD</sup> ADVENTIST CHAPLAINS  
WORLD CONGRESS**

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**2020**

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**GOES VIRTUAL**

**A**nticipation is high as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Adventist Chaplains World Congress has pivoted from a live event held in Indianapolis, Indiana to a virtual event that chaplains will attend in the comfort of their office or home. “Being able to provide the World Congress in a virtual setting provides chaplains worldwide the opportunity to attend the training,” says Dr. Mario Ceballos, Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. “We recognize the value of a live event and the importance of meeting face-to-face, but world events have changed that option for now.”

## WHAT IS A VIRTUAL CONGRESS?

Instead of having to make travel arrangements, book hotel rooms, purchase airline tickets, and obtain travel visas, you simply register to attend and then schedule time on your calendar to watch the event.

The virtual programming for the Congress will be much the same as

what was going to be featured during the live event. Currently, the Congress is tentatively scheduled for October, but this may change. Plans are in place to record each of the presenters, but this can only happen after travel and in-person meeting restrictions are lifted. Regular updates will be provided in the coming weeks and months as to the Congress dates.

## WHAT TRAINING WILL I RECEIVE DURING THE CONGRESS?

All training is designed to focus on the theme, Do Right. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly. This is to intentionally mentor chaplains of full integration of their ministry through the lens of Micah 6:8.

The theory portion on Day 2 will engage and equip chaplains to provide meaningful and practical principles for ministry. This is the 10,000 foot view of what the words of Micah 6:8 mean when applied to life and ministry.

 [www.adventistchaplains.org/index.php/3rd-adventist-chaplains-world-congress-2/](http://www.adventistchaplains.org/index.php/3rd-adventist-chaplains-world-congress-2/)

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Do Right.  
Love Mercy.

Walk Humbly.

# HERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

## DAY 1

The Congress will open with a greeting from Dr. Mario Ceballos, Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. This will be followed by a devotional from Elder Tom Lemon, General Vice President, General Conference. Rear Admiral Darold Bigger and Dr. Zeno Charles-Marcel will share messages.

## DAY 2

The theory portion on Day 2 will engage and equip chaplains to provide meaningful and practical principles for ministry.

The presentations will be in the format of TedX talks, which are a showcase for speakers presenting great, well-formed ideas in under 12 minutes. The day will be divided into three segments—Do Right. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly. At the beginning of each segment, Chaplains will view a video introducing the theme. A panel will conclude each section with a short discussion of questions and closing thoughts.

### DO RIGHT

*Perspectives on Justice and Ethics*

- Video introduction
- Bio-ethics and end of life  
*Ted Hamilton*
- Human autonomy and vulnerability  
*Jay Perez*
- Professional boundaries  
*Ramona Reynolds*

- A prophetic voice within technology  
*Vaughan Grant*

- Panel reflection

### LOVE MERCY

*Perspectives on Boundaries for Self and Ministry*

- Video introduction
- “When is enough? – Mercy for Oneself and Others”  
*Juleun Johnson*
- “To one of the least of these”  
*Christian Taylor*
- The paradox of limitations  
*Jay Perez*
- It starts at home-family  
*Theo Stewart*
- Panel reflection

### WALK HUMBLY

*Perspectives on Leadership and Learning*

- Video introduction
- The mystery of servant leadership  
*Edwin Alicea*
- The journey of the chaplain as a life-long learner  
*Joey Rivera*
- The strong voice of a quiet presence  
*Ivan Omaña*
- “Learn from me for I am meek and humble”  
*Ted Hamilton*
- Panel reflection

## DAY 3

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On Day 3 participants will move into their specific areas of chaplaincy and receive training that will empower them with tools for competency and skills in the arts of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care. Chaplains will consider core applications for their work and how best to apply the knowledge they gained on Day 2.

Coordinators for each endorsement area include:

- Campus  
*Terry Swenson and Dilys Brooks*
- Community (including Airport, Fire, Disaster, etc.)  
*Gary Councill*
- Corrections  
*Maxim Safanov*
- Health Care  
*Ted Hamilton, Juleun Johnson, Christian Taylor, Theo Stewart, Edwin Alicea, Joey Rivera, Ivan Omana, Vaughn Gran, Jay Perez, Ramona Reynolds*
- Law Enforcement  
*Claudio Consuegra and Dan Pabon*
- Military  
*Washington Johnson II and Bill Cork*

## WHAT DOES MY REGISTRATION INCLUDE?

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The expenses of a virtual event are less than those of a live event. ACM has reduced the registration fee to \$95.

Chaplains who register and attend all of the sessions and complete the required steps will receive 20 Continuing Education hours from Adventist Chaplaincy Institute. Additionally, they will receive a link to access the digital training, PDFs of any handouts that were to be distributed; a Chaplain's

Bible specifically designed for use in your ministry\*; several books for your ministry library\*; an ACM polo shirt\*; an ACM pen\*; and an ACM lapel pin.\*

\*These items have already been purchased for the World Congress and we want you to receive them.

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

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If you have already registered, you don't need to do anything else. Your registration is being automatically transferred from the live event to the virtual experience.

If you haven't yet registered, you still have the opportunity to do so. Visit the Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries website at [AdventistChaplains.org](http://AdventistChaplains.org). Look for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress link in the toolbar. Once you click the link, you'll be taken to the World Congress page where all of the registration information and all updates are posted.

Information that will be coming to you in future emails will include the dates of the virtual Congress, login information, and a personalized link that you may use for access to the Congress. This link will be for your use only and will not be able to be shared with others.

## KEEP UP-TO-DATE

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Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is excited to be able to offer this virtual experience to you. This is the way of the future and we look forward to exploring other experiences that we may be able to offer. During the coming months, we will update the World Congress webpage, send you emails, and post in social media. If you have any questions, contact our event manager Deena Bartel-Wagner at [bartelwagnerd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:bartelwagnerd@gc.adventist.org).

# THIS IS WHAT I WAS MISSING

By Gladson Thumbalamoto, D.Min.,  
Chaplain, Malamulo Adventist  
University–Malamulo Campus, with  
Deena Bartel-Wagner, Editor

You've heard it said that God doesn't always call the qualified, He qualifies the called. Gladson Thumbalamoto can testify to this in his role as Campus Chaplain at Malamulo Adventist University—Malamulo Campus.

With pastoral experience on his resumé, Gladson felt comfortable in parish ministry. "When I learned that I'd been appointed as the chaplain at the university, I felt anxious," says Gladson. "This was a totally new field to me. I hadn't worked with that many young people at a time in my previous ministry."

As Gladson began ministering to the students he was grateful for the thoughtfulness of his predecessors. "They left notes for me that I relied on in those early days to guide me as I developed plans to minister to the students."



Gladson Thumbalamoto

## BUILDING TRUST AND RELATIONSHIPS

Since those early days, Gladson has built relationships and trust with students. This has been an essential part of his work with them because of current societal conditions in Malawi. "Fifty percent of Malawians are below the poverty level," says Gladson. "In a society where men are expected to provide for their family, not holding a job or making enough money contributes to relationship issues."

Many of the students come to campus needing guidance in practical life experience. “Some students don’t know how to balance their emotions properly and react in unhealthy manners,” says Gladson. “Others carry the burden of a family background of parents fighting and other familial issues. One of the greatest challenges is finances. Without work, students don’t have a way to pay for an education. And if they can finally study and graduate, they have no assurance they will find employment.”

The student body is comprised of both Adventist students and others who come from various faith traditions. “When a student from another faith comes to my office, I introduce myself to them,” says Gladson. “Then I ask them about their beliefs. It’s important that I understand who they are and how their faith impacts them. I’m here and their pastors aren’t, so they often seek me out for counseling.”

### I'M HERE AND I'M HAPPY

Depression and suicide are real threats among the students. “I tell students their behavior affects others. What they do doesn’t just impact them,” says Gladson. “One Sabbath morning, Lina\* came to me in distress. She said, ‘Pastor, I want to die. Nobody loves me.’”

Gladson learned that her boyfriend broke off their relationship and began

dating Lina’s friend. “I asked Lina, ‘If you die who will miss you?’ Her response was her mother and father.”

With this response he asked, “Do you want to break their hearts?” Lina assured him that she didn’t.

Gladson then directed the conversation to why Lina came to the university. “I reminded Lina that she’d come to make her life better and that she’d made an agreement to study and work hard. I said it was time to make another agreement – that she not hurt herself.”

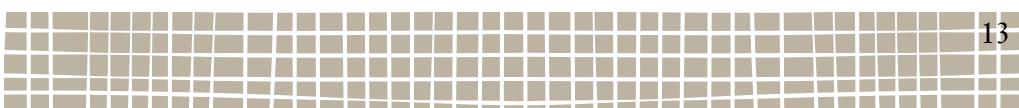
Gladson met weekly with her for the rest of the school year. Then term break came, and Lina left campus. “Imagine my joy when Lina attended a camp meeting that we held,” says Gladson. “Her words to me were, ‘Pastor, I’m here and I’m happy!’”

### I'M A VERY BAD PERSON

We’ve all worn masks and played roles to meet people’s expectations. As an Adventist, Chisulo\* knew he lived a double life. He served as a leader on campus and was very involved in outreach ministries. “He came to my office once and broke down in tears,” says Gladson. “Chisulo admitted that he was not a Christian and that he’d been drinking and partying off campus. He’d been involved with several women and had hurt them emotionally.”

Chisulo’s simple plea to his chaplain was, “I need Jesus.”

**"It's important that I understand who they are and how their faith impacts them. I'm here and their pastors aren't, so they often seek me out for counseling."**





"We agreed to meet weekly for prayer and accountability," says Gladson. "Chisulo also committed to making drastic changes in his life."

About five months after Chisulo sat in the chaplain's office and made his confession, he participated in an evangelistic campaign held at the university. Then graduation came and Chisulo left the campus, but he continued to keep in touch with Gladson. "Today, his mother also keeps me up-to-date on how Chisulo is doing."

## WORKING HANDS, HAPPY HEART

Engaging students in meaningful local service projects is one of the mechanisms Gladson implements to build resilience in the student body. Working for others always lifts spirits

and improves emotional well-being. "We've conducted health clinics with students taking blood pressures, completed malaria screenings, and other testing," says Gladson. "When patients need a referral, we are able to work with Malamulo Adventist Hospital and the staff."

Other activities have included improving community sanitary conditions with the construction of public bathrooms. Students are engaged in giving Bible studies and also educating people about HIV and AIDS. During Weeks of Spiritual Emphasis, students study with their friends.

## THROUGH PRAYERS OF FAITH

During one Week of Spiritual emphasis, students had their faith tested and they witnessed answered

Chaplain Gladson ministers to the students of Malamulo Adventist University.



prayer. “Asale\* suffered a severe asthma attack that almost claimed her life,” says Gladson. “After two days of clinging to life, she finally stabilized, but there was more bad news. She had no feeling below her waist.”

Upon his visit the fourth day, Gladson witnessed Asale sitting in a wheelchair. As word spread across campus of Asale’s condition, the students had hope. “During the Week of Spiritual Emphasis, they decided to pray over Asale that she would walk again,” says Gladson. “Their faith was strong as Asale left for home to recuperate. When she returned to campus, her peers would carry her on their back or wheel her in her chair to class. Asale is slowly regaining her ability to walk. We thought these things are only of Bible times, but here they are happening before our eyes.”

## HOPE ALWAYS EXISTS

Helping students to understand God’s love and that hope always exists is one of the messages Gladson shares with his students. “Njemile\* wanted to die, so she took pills in an attempt to end her life,” says Gladson. “When she wasn’t successful, guilt overwhelmed her. Although she’d been studying for baptism, she believed because of her actions, she couldn’t be baptized.”

As Gladson counseled her, Njemile resolved many of the issues that burdened her. She came to believe



Ministry doesn’t just happen in offices and hallways. For Chaplain Gladson, it’s anytime he can connect with students.

that God forgave her and loved her, and was eventually baptized.

## CALLED AND QUALIFIED

Today, Gladson knows that God not only called him to minister as a campus chaplain, but He qualified him, also. “I hope to one day complete Clinical Pastoral Education units to continue building my chaplaincy skills.” says Gladson. “I’ve told my wife that the work I’m doing today was what was missing in my ministry.”

And, so, Gladson meets students where they are, brings them to the feet of Jesus, and prepares them to respond when they are called to follow God in the ways He has planned for them.

\*Names have been changed for privacy purposes.

Helping students to understand God’s love and that hope always exists is one of the messages Gladson shares with his students.

# Witnessing the Daily Miracle

By Steve Stephenson,

Manager, Spiritual Care Department, Sydney Adventist Hospital, with Deena Bartel-Wagner, Editor

If a murderous heart hadn't been changed, it's possible that Stenoy Stephenson wouldn't be a Christian or a chaplain today.

Known as Steve to his friends, his story started on one continent and continues today on another. "I'm originally from India, so I introduce myself as Indian by birth and Australian by choice," says Steve. "In India, Hinduism is what is considered the national religion. My grandad was a Hindu extremist. He learned of a man who was preaching the gospel in his town. This enraged him, and he declared he was going to kill the preacher."

Grandad gathered a group of men to help him carry out the violent action. On the way there, the group was involved in an accident, and several of the men died. "Grandad survived the incident," says Steve. "When the preacher learned about the plan, he decided to visit Grandad."

That visit turned into many more conversations. Eventually, Grandad's heart changed. He relinquished his extremist views, accepted Jesus as his Saviour, and was baptized. He began to proclaim the gospel as an Adventist minister. He recently retired from his position as a local conference president in India.



Stenoy (Steve) Stephenson

Growing up in India, Steve learned how God changed his grandfather's heart.

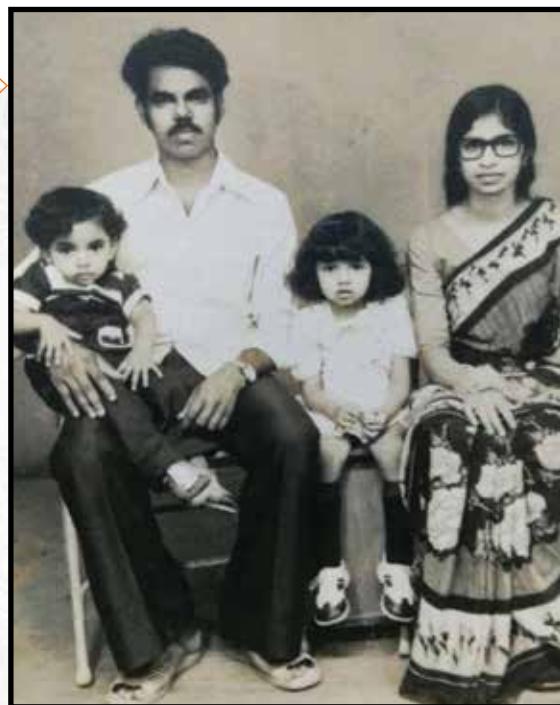
"As I was growing up, my grandad and my dad wanted me to follow their footsteps and become a pastor," says Steve. "I didn't want to do that, but after a near-death experience, I changed my mind."

As he served his church members, Steve discovered he enjoyed making hospital visits. "As a pastor in India, chaplaincy just comes along with it, but chaplaincy is not given more focus," says Steve. "So, I developed a passion for chaplaincy when I visited the hospitals in India. Most of them were not even Christian hospitals."

With a relocation to Australia, Steve decided that he had an opportunity to look at chaplaincy in-depth. "In India, we don't have training in chaplaincy, but I always knew that there is more to chaplaincy than just walking into your church member's hospital room and meeting with them. Based on the work I was doing in the non-Christian hospitals, the administration began to call me for trauma situations. They saw that the chaplain actually helped patients and their families."

During a job interview, Steve was asked if he would be interested in taking a Clinical Pastoral Education unit. "I grabbed the opportunity," says Steve. "I started the unit, but soon became uncomfortable with confronting myself in the program. I almost quit. My manager told me that I could. I decided I'd quit, but a voice inside me said I should hang in there. I decided to at least finish that first unit. As the weeks passed, I began to see the change and embrace the CPE process. I eventually complete both the basic and advanced CPE levels."

Steve sees this as a turning point



in his ministry. "CPE gave me a new perspective in life, which no university or education in the past had taught me. It changed my mindset," says Steve. "CPE changed the way I looked at ministry. It changed the way I looked at evangelism. It taught me to reflect on myself and on what I'm going through while I'm with a patient. It taught me to put theological reflection in every visit that I make."

Today, Steve is manager of the Spiritual Care Services at the Sydney Adventist Hospital in Sydney, Australia. His passion for CPE training led him to re-establish an ongoing program at the hospital. "Ten years ago, at the San, we had a CPE program, and then it closed," says Steve. "One of the first steps that I took as a manager of this department, and by God's grace was to implement CPE in March 2018 and received accreditation a year later. We

plan on running multiple courses and include pastors who want to be a part of the course.”

Steve and his team look for ways to serve the patients and families using innovative methods. “We hold daily morning worship that is available for patients to access on the television in their room,” says Steve. “Staff members also join us for worship all through the hospital. We also have a program on Sabbath called Sabbath Prays featuring different singing groups for a praise and worship concert. Our once-a-month First Friday program focuses on personal stories of healing and restoration. It uses testimonies Bible stories, and music.”

As with many other chaplaincy programs, some individuals question the value of the effort. “I was asked if I thought the First Friday program was going well because the attendance in the chapel didn’t seem to be high,” says Steve. “My response was, ‘Even if there is one person there, that is important, isn’t it? Then I was able to share a story. Two months before, we had a small group attend. That weekend I was on call. On Sabbath I went to visit patients in their rooms. One of the patients, Margaret\*, had attended the program the day before.’

At 13-years-old, Margaret left her family and quit attending church. She’d lived her life without God. Now, her days were short as she faced death. And, after all these years she walked into a worship service. “Margaret told me, ‘I won’t be here for the next First Friday, but I’m so glad I attended this one,’ ” says Steve. “Then she said, ‘I’m coming back to God, and I’m holding onto faith. I want to have hope because I’ve lived a

hopeless life.’ I believe that is what we are here for—the one soul for whom we can make a difference.”

As Steve walks the hospital halls, his care specialty is to the dying in the high care ward. “Our Australian society is highly secular and materialistic,” says Steve. “Often, I’m preparing patients and their family for death. Even if they are non-Christians or non-believers, all of a sudden they’ll believe anything if their loved one is at peace.”

“I went into a patient’s room, and there were about twenty people in the room, which included extended family. So, I said hello to everybody and introduced myself,” says Steve. “Finally, I said hello to the patient. He told me he just turned 54, and from age 16, he’d been working.”

The patient built a successful business, which added to his financial security. He and his wife decided to turn the business over to their children and take a cruise. “Before the cruise, they decided to get a medical check-up. The doctors discovered he



Steve and Laura Stephenson



The Spiritual Care team at Sydney Adventist Hospital in Sydney, Australia.



Services from the hospital chapel are streamed into patients' rooms.

was riddled with cancer and only had weeks to live.”

Steve returned the next day, and the patient and his wife were there. “We talked for a while, and then they said, ‘You know what? When you came in, there was a kind of an energy that you brought in, very positive energy. Can you keep visiting us?’ I told them I’d be happy to come again.”

During the third visit, Steve found only the patient in the room. This allowed for a more in-depth conversation. “The patient began to talk about my God and his god. I returned daily and we had some great conversations with each other. Then, one day, he said, ‘Steve, I now believe in your God, and I believe in my God. How can I show your God that I believe in Him?’”

Steve explained about baptism and anointing. “The patient said, ‘Okay, definitely I can’t be baptized because I can’t get out of bed, would you anoint me?’” says Steve. “I said I wanted him to talk with his family first, so they knew about his decision.”

Steve then spoke with his director and asked him to be a part of the anointing service. “On the day of the anointing, as we were at the door of the patient’s room, my boss asked me, ‘What is the patient’s name?’ And I told him, ‘His name is Mohammed.’

That day we anointed a Muslim.”

Steve used texts from the Quran that talk about healing and life and Bible verses. He’d made copies for sharing with everyone in the room. “The next day, when I visited the room, right on the door, one of those papers was stuck on the door,” says Steve. “Another one was right above his head. All around the room those six papers were stuck on the wall. That Thursday he passed away. The ward called me and asked me to come to see the family.”

Steve met with the family and helped them make arrangements. “Almost five hours later, as I was standing at the nurse’s station,” says Steve. “Someone took hold of my arm, and I quickly turned around. Mohammed’s wife was in a wheelchair because she was literally tired and couldn’t walk anymore. Her grief overwhelmed her. I immediately knelt beside her and started talking to her. She hugged me tight. And then, she’s whispered to me, ‘Because of what you did, I’m going to see Mohammed again.’”

Steve reflects on stories such as Mohammed’s when talks about chaplaincy. “If you want to witness a miracle each day, chaplaincy is where you have to be,” says Steve.

# ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

A new wall mural at the General Conference headquarters building in Silver Spring, Maryland highlights the work of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and the ministries it provides worldwide, including Chaplaincy, World Service Organization, Adventist Chaplaincy Institute, and the Medical Cadets Corps.



## ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY INSTITUTE

Dr. Cheryl Simmons received her Adventist Chaplaincy Institute Board Certification from Dr. Mario E. Ceballos. This is the second Board Certification that Dr. Simmons holds.

## INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

### JAMAICA

Pastors from Jamaica learned about the opportunities and benefits of chaplaincy ministries during ACM meetings on the beautiful island nation of Jamaica.



### NICARAGUA AND HONDURAS

Pastors and Chaplains from Nicaragua and Honduras participated in their first unit of Clinical Pastoral Education. Dr. Basharat Masih, Clinical Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Institute, Elder Hiram Ruiz, ACM Director, Inter-American

Division, Elder Marcio Palencia, Central American Adventist University, Costa Rica were joined Dr. Mario E. Ceballos, ACM Director, General Conference for the training.



## HONDURAS

In La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula, and Tegucigalpa, Honduras, pastors, Chaplains, conference and union leaders attended training on chaplaincy and pastoral visitation. “It was a wonderful experience,” says Mario Ceballos. “Thank you to the great leadership of Pastor Adam Ramos, Honduras Union Mission president.”

## PANAMA

ACM held productive meetings with the Panamanian Union leaders and Chaplains as well as with G.A.R.Y/Medical Cadet Corps leaders in Panama City, Panama.



## NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Adventist Campus Chaplains from colleges and universities in the North American Division met for their annual training and retreat at Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, Georgia. The chaplains used this time to share how they are ministering to the students on their campuses, the trends they are seeing, and discussed how to best meet spiritual needs of students, faculty, and staff.





Washington Conference leadership officially recognized U. S. Navy Chaplain Jose Monzon's call to ministry during a Ceremony of Ordination. Participants included Elder Doug Bing, President, Washington Conference, Elder Craig Carr, Vice President—Administration, Washington Conference, Bill Roberts, Ministerial Director, Washington Conference, and Elder Ivan Omaña, Assistant Director, ACM—North American Division.

Chaplain Kevin Daul's calling to pastoral ministry was officially recognized by the Washington Conference in the Bonney Lake

SDA Church, Bonney Lake, Washington with the Ceremony of Ordination. Led by Elder Doug Bing, President, Washington Conference along Dr. Paul Anderson, Director, ACM—North American Division.



## SOUTHERN ASIA PACIFIC DIVISION

"What a wonderful opportunity to visit our Adventist hospital in Medan, Indonesia," says Dr. Mario E. Ceballos, Director, ACM-GC. "We very much appreciate the good work that our Chaplains are doing there."



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Further details will be available on the Adventist® Chaplaincy Ministries website, Facebook, and Twitter.

## NAD Director's Thoughts

# OIL ENOUGH?



### Matthew 25: 1-13

I heard a story about a rancher who needed additional help. He interviewed several potential ranch hands but was not satisfied.

Finally, a man came to inquire about the job.

The rancher asked about his background and references. He asked the ranch hand about his work ethic. The man responded by saying, "I can sleep when the wind blows."

A few weeks later as a storm approached, the Rancher found his new ranch hand asleep. He jostled him awake and remonstrated with him. "Don't you know that there is a storm coming. There is work to do!" The ranch hand replied calmly that all of the work had been done. The Rancher stormed out into the rain to check on the barn doors, the tarp over the hay, and other variables. When he realized that all the work had been done, he appreciated the ranch hand even more. He could sleep while the wind was blowing because he had done his work, thoroughly, in advance.

As I sat to write, two songs permeated my consciousness. The hymn "We Are Living, We Are Dwelling" and the children's song "Give Me Oil In My Lamp." Each song is rooted in my childhood from church and family worship. Each song has overtones that suggest that preparedness is a contemporary urgency.

It seems that each day brings news stories of new technology that can make our lives easier. The next story brings more ominous tidings about the coronavirus (COVID-19). Every news case affirms how much we do not know about the illness. We hear of more confirmed cases and deaths attributed to the virus are increasing globally. The calculus regarding the arrival of local infections is no longer a syllogism of if-then, it is the inevitable when.

Travel plans are being truncated. Luxury vacations and the travel industry are reeling. The global economy is free falling because factories, manufacturing, shipping and delivery systems have been hampered by quarantines. A highly placed medical research official recently declared that no one should be traveling on cruise ships and no one over 60 years of

age should be traveling on airplanes, because people in that age range are most susceptible to infection. Truly, the year 2020 is a grand and awful time. Luke 21:11 says, “And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines and pestilences and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.” (KJV)

We are living in an era where the eschatological events that I heard described from pulpits, in my youth, are being fulfilled. A fulcrum of American society, the freedom of assembly, is giving way to voluntary or imposed quarantines. Microchips are inextricably bound to mercantilism. There are food deserts in the bread baskets of the world. Wars and rumors of wars abound and are indeed never ending. Economic despair is occurring among the monied sectors as global markets reel and stock market indices plunge dramatically. How then shall we live in times like these?

Now, perhaps, more than ever before, is a time when preparedness matters. I recommend three imperatives of preparedness.

- 1. The Goshen Mindset of spiritual security.** This is the confidence that God will protect us, even in and through perilous times. We may struggle, suffer some privations, and even die under duress, but ultimately, nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- 2. Contingency planning** includes the presence and ability to execute an emergency action plan. This plan should include a communications matrix, pre-determined rendezvous sites, and practiced roles and tasks, i.e. who will pick up the children from school?
- 3. Logistical forethought** should include a 30-day supply of potable water, food, medicine, supplies and cash. Also imperative are first aid kits, important papers, and a security plan for your family and home.

Now, is the only time we have to get prepared. If you are not prepared, or, you have underestimated the urgency of the times and procrastinated, you are vulnerable. More than ever before, now is the time to be practiced and personally ready.

Of course, no one can control calamity. Tornadoes, earthquakes, fires, and floods are unpredictable. However, when we know what could happen and have done our part to prepare, if we survive, we are better prepared to respond with less despair.

Being ready is a spiritual imperative. Have you prepared? Are you ready? Is there enough oil in your lamps? Can you sleep as the wind blows?



# Beulah Fenton Stevens REMEMBERED



**B**eurah Fern Fenton was born on Friday, July 9, 1937. She was the second child, and second daughter of Claude and Oral (Wilson) Fenton. After graduating from high school, Beulah enrolled in the Walla Walla College School of Nursing.

Beulah received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Walla Walla College in 1959. After working as a staff nurse at the hospital in Portland until 1962, she returned to Walla Walla College to earn her Master's degree in Education, graduating in June 1963. In

subsequent years this training proved invaluable to her career path which gradually developed into a specialty of In-service Education for the nursing staff at Portland Adventist Medical Center and later at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

In 1969 she accepted a call from Loma Linda University Medical Center to serve as Director of Nursing Education and Training, and maintained faculty rank in the Loma Linda University School of Nursing.

Through the early 1970s Beulah became instrumental in developing policy and procedure manuals, relating them to contemporary trends in nursing care, organization, etc. From 1975-1977, she served as coordinator for a U.S. government funded research project studying alternate methods of learning for nursing students.

As the research project drew to a close, Beulah's title and responsibilities once again expanded. Under the title "Clinical Specialist," she was asked to undertake a pioneering project aimed at training nurses to integrate appropriate spiritual care into nursing practice. She served as a liaison between the Nursing and Chaplain's Departments, working closely with

**Dr. Wil Alexander, Head Chaplain.** In this new capacity, Beulah conducted workshops and seminars for nurses, not only at Loma Linda University Medical Center, but also in major Adventist hospitals in the United States.

While living in the Loma Linda, California area in the early 1970's Beulah met James Stevens, Junior. They were married on August 12, 1973 at the Granger Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1980 Beulah became the Director of Human Resources Development for the Loma Linda University Medical Center Nursing Division. She served in this capacity until 1982 when she and Jim accepted an invitation to pastor a tiny congregation in Irrigon, Oregon. While Jim and Beulah lived in Irrigon, she remained active as a part-time Examiner for Basic Health Systems. She continued her work in nursing education with Spiritual Care Workshops for Nursing throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico, and what was then the Far Eastern Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1985, Jim and Beulah moved back to Portland. For two years she served as the receptionist in

the Pastoral Care Department at Portland Adventist Medical Center. She completed course work in Clinical Pastoral Education at Providence Medical Center in Portland during the winter of 1987. Beulah then worked at Portland Adventist Medical Center (PAMC) as a staff chaplain and within a few years moved into the position of Director of Chaplain services at PAMC. She was dearly loved and highly respected in this leadership role. Beulah continued the work that she was so passionate about as the Director of Chaplain Services up until the time of her retirement in 2007. Beulah decided to move to College Place, Washington for her final retirement years.

She is survived by her sister Katty Joy French, brother Loren Fenton, nieces Shelly Waymire and Kimberly Holback, nephews Benjamin Fenton and Jeffrey Fenton, ten great-nieces and nephews, one great-grand-nephew, and one great-grand-niece as well as members of her dearly beloved Stevens family.

Beulah was predeceased by her husband James Stevens, her parents Claude and Oral Fenton, and her brother Beryl Fenton.

*For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

– 1 Thessalonians 4:16 17, New Living Translation

# NAD UPDATES

## CAP Chaplain's CONTRIBUTION REMEMBERED

By Captain (CHC) Washington Johnson, II, U. S. Navy

Associate Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, North American Division



**O**n a picture-perfect autumn afternoon, during a special ceremony, a bronze memorial medallion was affixed to the grave marker of Chaplain Edward Earl Cleveland (1921- 2009) at Oakwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Huntsville, Alabama, to honor his service as a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Chaplain.

The idea for a medallion was conceived by Elder R. Steven Norman III, Communications Director of the Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventists to acknowledge clergy and educators in memoriam who have dedicated their lives to service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The officiant for the ceremony was Captain Washington Johnson II, United States Navy Chaplain Corps, who serves as an Assistant Director of

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries in the North American Division.

The honor was most fitting for Chaplain Cleveland. Known as a legend in the field of public evangelism in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Cleveland conducted countless evangelistic crusades, authored 16 books, served as an administrator at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Oakwood University, and was later inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. collegium of preachers and scholars at Morehouse College Atlanta, Georgia. In 2007 Oakwood University dedicated a building bearing Cleveland's and the names of two other distinguished leaders in the Seventh-day Church: "The Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center."

Cleveland's role as a CAP Chaplain is remembered with distinction, as it held a special place in both his heart and ministry. He considered it a great honor when in 1993 he became a chaplain in the CAP at the urging of his close friend and colleague, Elder James Melancon, who also then served as a CAP chaplain holding the rank of Colonel. During Cleveland's ten years of service he was assigned to the Huntsville Composite Squadron and received several medals, ribbons, and unit awards. Cleveland was devoted to



duty with the CAP and showed great appreciation for all military service personnel, including his father's service in World War I. A photo of Cleveland's father, William C. Cleveland Sr., could be admired on his home office desk at any given time.

In attendance for this historical occasion was Charles Bradford, former president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and Harold Lee, D.Min, former Director of the Bradford Cleveland Brooks Leadership Center. Other participants included Dr. Mervyn Warren, who gave a heartfelt invocation. Elder James Melancon passionately spoke of Cleveland's role as a chaplain in the CAP. Elder R. Steven Norman III shared the background of the medallion and



affixed it to Cleveland's grave marker. Elder T. Marshall Kelly and Dr. Joyce Johnson led the congregation in a melodious and inspirational reminder of the Second Coming, symbolized in part by the medallion, with a verse of the song, "We Have This Hope:"

*We have this hope that burns within  
our hearts,*

*Hope in the coming of the Lord.*

*We have this faith that Christ  
alone imparts,*

*Faith in the promise of His Word.*

*We believe the time is here,*

*When the nations far and near*

*Shall awake, and shout and sing*

*Hallelujah! Christ is King!*

*We have this hope that burns within  
our hearts,*

*Hope in the coming of the Lord.*

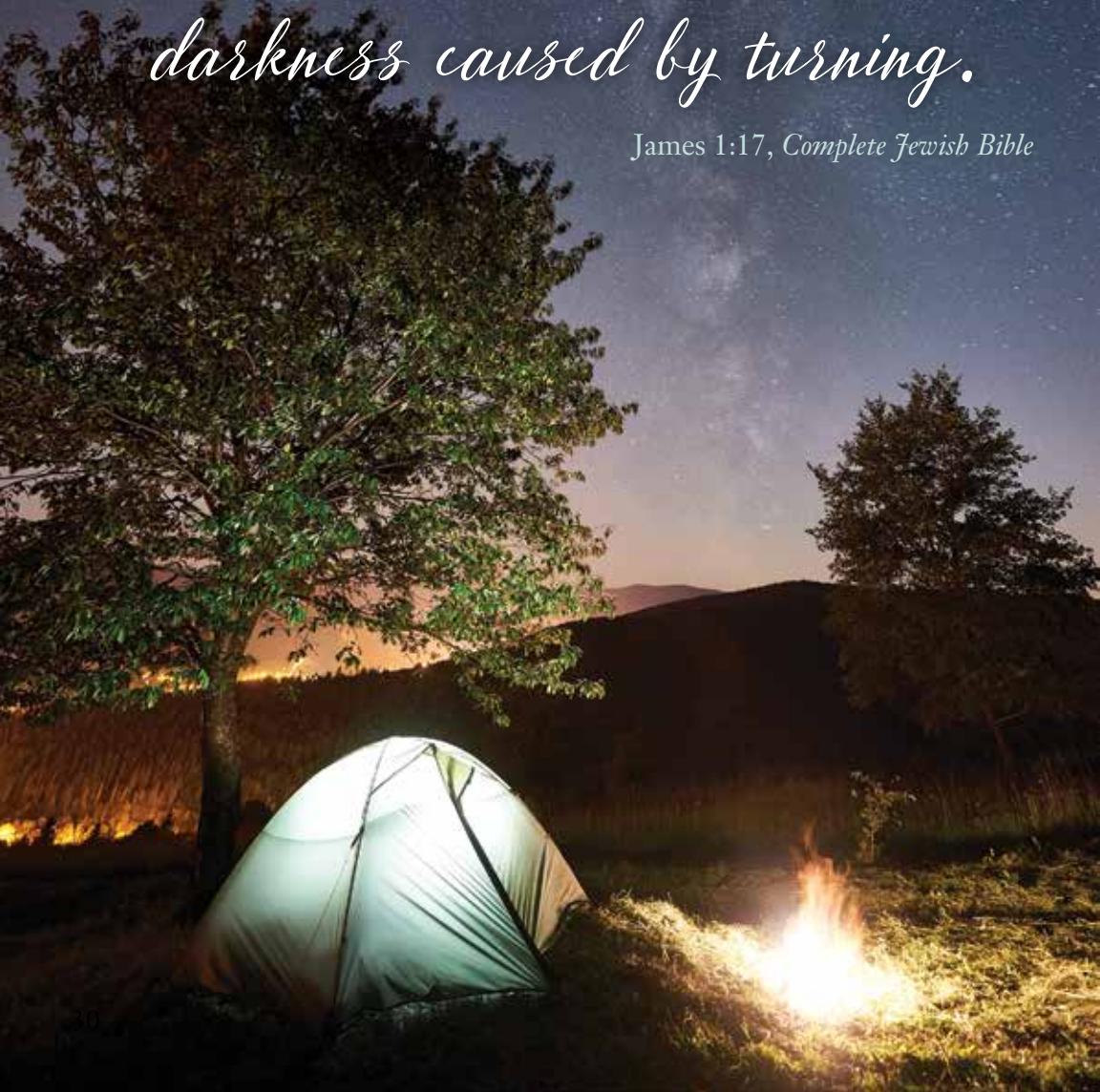
– Wayne Hooper, 1962

The words of the song also portrayed Cleveland's strong belief in the imminent and soon return of Christ, as evidenced by his passionate work as a gospel evangelist. The memorable ceremony that honored Chaplain Cleveland's service to both God and Country concluded with a benediction of, love, hope and divine protection by Elder T. Marshall Kelly.

**THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLERGY  
MEMORIAL MEDALLIONS CAN BE PURCHASED  
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*Every good act of giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father who made the heavenly lights; with him there is neither variation nor darkness caused by turning.*

James 1:17, *Complete Jewish Bible*



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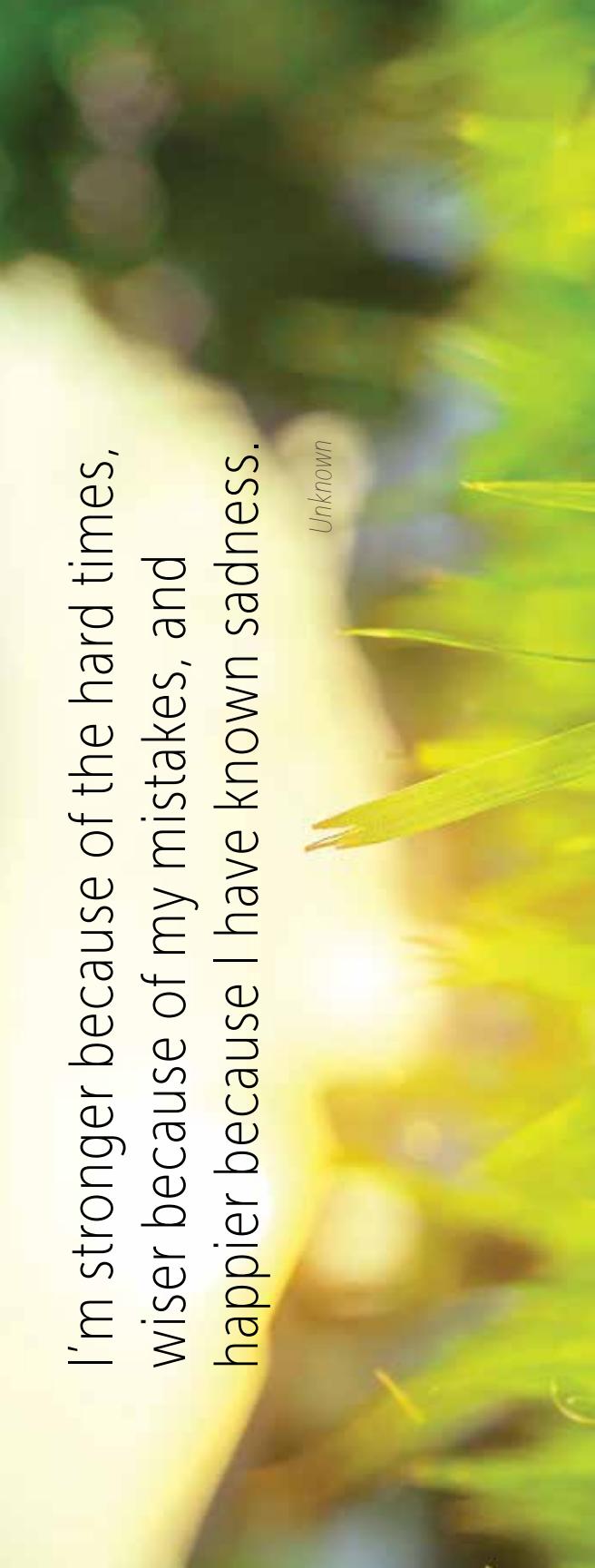
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I'm stronger because of the hard times,  
wiser because of my mistakes, and  
happier because I have known sadness.

*Unknown*



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