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Adventist Journey

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My Journey

I've grown up in the church, and while I was young played a lot of sports. Every year I would have to explain why I wouldn't play on Sabbath. Having, at such a young age, to stick up for what I believed helped set a foundation for my faith, which I am especially growing during my year as a student missionary. Visit <https://vimeo.com/256832163> for more of Evan's journey.

EVAN W. MCGRAW,
*Junior business administration major,
Pacific Union College*



Cover Photo by Dan Weber

Dear Reader: The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and *Adventist World* magazine, which is inserted halfway through *Adventist Journey* (after page 8). Please enjoy both magazines!

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E-mail: AdventistJourney@nadadventist.org | Web site: nadadventist.org

ADVENTIST JOURNEY

Editor **Kimberly Luste Maran**

Senior Editorial Assistant **Georgia Standish**

Art Direction & Design **Types & Symbols**

Consultants **G. Earl Knight, Mark Johnson, Dave Weigley, Maurice Valentine, Gary Thurber, John Freedman, Ricardo Graham, Ron C. Smith, Larry Moore**

Executive Editor, *Adventist World* **Bill Knott**

BEYOND PALM TREES AND BEACHES

Five student missionaries share why they serve, and what they've learned.

BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

Young adults become student missionaries (SMs) for many reasons, often pausing their college work, and their regular lives, to serve for a year or two in a place far from home. And as these five SMs' yearlong assignments drew to a close, they shared their stories: what they've learned about themselves, their relationship with Jesus, and what it means to serve others.



The Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist Mission School sits in a lush valley between the verdant mountains of the island's interior. More than 300 students attend this K-12 school where student missionaries comprise much of the faculty. Photo by Pieter Damsteegt

Visit <http://www.nadadventist.org/news/beyond-palm-trees-and-beaches> for more photos, story, and video from mission schools in Majuro and Pohnpei.

A SMALL WORLD

Evan McGraw, junior business administration major Pacific Union College

Gusts of wind swirled through the concrete hallway as we approached the upstairs classroom where Evan was straightening desks, tossing discarded sheets of paper into the trash bin, and ushering students out of class. Promising to see the students later for the basketball game—or at school the next day—Evan shut the door, clipped a mic to his shirt collar, and sat down.

“I’ve always known I wanted to be an SM. I’ve always loved the ocean and the beach, and I knew I wanted to go to an island,” says Evan as his gaze drifts outside to the water breaking on the rocks of the coastline. “I did some research and found an accounting teaching job here.” But after several mix-ups, Evan was assigned to teach high school social studies. He prepared for the task only to find, upon his arrival to Majuro Seventh-day Adventist School in Delap, that no one was teaching accounting. Evan was assigned both.

“It’s exciting because I get to teach what I wanted to originally, and I’ve been learning lots of Micronesian history and Pacific Island geography in order to teach,” Evan explains. “The challenge with teaching has been with understanding the culture, which is both Westernized—with pop music and professional sports such as the National Basketball Association—and modest at the same time. Also, the students find it hard to contain themselves sometimes, and when it comes to school work, they can be unmotivated. Getting them to sit still, be quiet, to do their work has been the main challenge.”

The Delap campus is in the center of the city, near a large hospital, the U.S. embassy, and civic buildings, so student missionary

All student missionary photos by Dan Weber



Student missionaries from the Delap Majuro Mission School (back, left to right): Austin Lambeth, Hannah Gregg, Makayla Curtis, Audrey Turner; (front): Luisa Goncales, Michaela Kruse, Erica Stevens, Jamison Logan, Mirjana Pavlovic, Kelsey Schmeling, Evan McGraw

teachers don’t have to go far for any supplies they need. The church and new radio station are adjacent to the school and faculty living quarters, which, for Evan, creates a small, sheltered world.

“It’s really cool, that you can just put your life on pause,” says Evan. “Once you settle in, you have time to think about the stuff at home, to reevaluate and make sure you’re on the right path. You have time to organize your thoughts and find a path you maybe wouldn’t have found if you were just at home doing normal things.”

Evan has shared the highs and lows of teaching with his fellow SMs, and experiences such as snorkeling and swimming with dolphins, and helping with school worships, Friday evening vespers, and Sabbath services. “This year has been a growing-up process,” Evan says. “I’ve been able to work on leadership skills—doing presentations in class is going to be a piece of cake now.”

Evan explains that one of his reasons for spending a year in Majuro was for the adventure. “I also wanted the personal growth, and as

an SM, you feel that call to just go help people. You have the drive to go *do* something different, and you want that real spiritual pickup.”

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT
Lindsey Crumley, sophomore Southern Adventist University

Pewter clouds were pregnant with rain, but after a few days of living with the deluges in tropical Pohnpei, we gauged our time and set up the interview with Lindsey outside. She and I perched on the steps near the creek that runs the course of the campus, along one of the wings of the elementary school. Lindsey was always interested in mission work and always knew she’d be an SM. After high school she joined Adventist Colleges Abroad through Southern Adventist University and went to Universidad Adventista del Plata (River Plate Adventist University). Then she tried to find a mission assignment.

“After a year in Argentina, I wanted to do mission trips in South America. My time there deepened



Student missionary Lindsey Crumley (left) and village children watch a skit performed by other SMs during a Sabbath afternoon Vacation Bible School program that involved singing, story time (Bible skit), and a craft.

my walk with God and really prepared me. But doors kept closing and closing and closing. I was beginning to lose hope," says Lindsey.

Lindsey continued to pray, and felt that God was telling her to keep trying. She contacted a friend who was an SM in Pohnpei, and he told Lindsey about several mission trips. But none of them panned out.

Then Lindsey went hang-gliding on a visit to Brazil. "I thought, *Should I really be doing this? This is money that maybe I should be saving for something else,*" shares Lindsey.

"I was talking about it with God and He said, 'This is your moment to decide. Are you going to jump 100 percent completely in and trust Me, or are you going to hang back?' I realized

"I love this kind of work. I want to be a tentmaker, a Paul."

that was a parallel for coming here."

With less than two months before the start of summer classes at Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist Mission School, and with no money, or any way to get to the mountainous island, Lindsey decided. "I want to be in a situation in which I had to trust God all the way. So I did. I took that leap, He caught me, and the money came through, the flights came through, the tickets came through.

After the summer I fell in love with it and couldn't just leave."

A position opened, and Lindsey was able to teach high school English for the 2017-2018 school year. She has students who hardly speak English, others who understand well; some students who are boisterous, and others who'd rather sleep through class. But each school day those students have worship with Lindsey, and she connects with them. Some of those students come to her for help.

"I had a couple students who came to me after the first month or two of school and were going through terrible depression and were suicidal. I had to lean on God 100 percent for what to say, when to say it, how and when should I give them to Him, and when should I be talking to them," says Lindsey. "I definitely don't feel worthy to be here. It's a situation that is so far over my head I've had to put it in God's hands 100 percent."

Lindsey may pursue global communication at Walla Walla University. She still wants to be involved in mission, but in planning and creating programs. "I love this kind of work. I want to be a tentmaker, a Paul. I want to run around the country to different cities and help those churches and be able to minister to those people. I'm looking for a degree that will help me change the world. I'll take the leap of faith and see where the Lord is leading."

CAREER PATH

Madeline Ringering, junior elementary education major
Walla Walla University

Wide wooden planks serving as benches under a roofed seating area near the staff and faculty apartments at Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist Mission School gave us protection from the tropical sun. Taro, the school's spunky, little black cat, weaved around Madeline, pressing her head to the SM's hand. Grabbing the cat, Madeline gently put her on the ground and explained how she—the SM—likes the hot weather and loves the people.

"I'm more of a summer girl," says Madeline. "It's very different than Washington. And it's not just the weather. I call this my island home. The people are respectful, they're more loving to visitors, and they're not in a rush. It's definitely island time, and just a lot of love."

As a sixth grader Madeline went to a basketball tournament with her older brothers. SMs who had recently returned gave their testimonies. "I heard those testimonies for years and wanted to be an SM too. Finally, after two years of college I felt that God was telling me that I was ready."

Says Madeline, "It's my first time away from home without any of my family members. I was anxious coming here, but I felt a peace once I got on the plane. *God really wanted me on this plane,* I thought."

After almost a year teaching first grade,

"I love teaching [my students] classwork, and how to pray and learn more about Jesus."

Madeline blinked back emotion when asked about her class.* "I absolutely love them; sometimes I feel like they are *my* kids," Madeline says. "I have 22 of them, the biggest class in the elementary [school]. They are such a blessing, and I love teaching them classwork, and teaching them how to pray and learn more about Jesus. . . . It's fun to watch the bulb light up in their brain, knowing that I helped that happen."

Teaching her students has helped Madeline too. "I know I'm on the right career path. I feel that I'm doing something: helping change [the kids] and helping them grow."

That isn't to say that there aren't tough days on the island when SMs deal with frustrations. "Some people struggle and are negative, and it could be running out of water or food, dealing with the bugs, or challenging times with students," Madeline explains. "But we pray a lot. At staff worship in the morning, throughout the day with my students. . . . I feel like my walk with God has become a lot stronger. I'm more optimistic in life. I just feel God all around."

WHERE LOVES COME IN

Hannah Gregg, junior graphic design major, *Union College*

A strong, dry wind whipped around us as we sat outside the lower-level elementary school classrooms at the Majuro Seventh-day Adventist Mission School in Delap. Hannah, serving as the art teacher, had just finished classes for the day, and, after seeing 400 students throughout the week, she was taking a welcome break on the bench.



Madeline Ringering begins her day teaching first graders at Pohnpei Mission School with worship.

"Majuro wasn't my first choice," says Hannah. She had wanted to be a student missionary in her freshman year, but a serious knee injury caused her to postpone those plans. Hannah kept applying; Majuro was near the bottom of her list. But her other choices were not working out, and after lots of prayer she talked to a professor. He told her she should apply for the art teacher position, which she did. She was accepted the next day.

"I never considered teaching art; coming here was a God thing," Hannah says. "So far I've been around a lot of great people. The other SMs I've met have really changed the way I think about myself and the work around me."

Bonding with the other SMs in the program has helped prepare Hannah for teaching art and supporting the students, K-12. While younger children just love art and get excited about what she's teaching, some of the older students have confided in Hannah about being victims of bullying and other problems. "I have no idea what these kids have gone through. They are things I won't ever understand. But it's been cool to be able to talk to them and help them in some small way.

"I do struggle with my faith, and with my life in general. It's good for a person to be in situations where it's hard, then realize that we can't do anything on our own. . . . I've been praying a lot about that, too. God is always there, and I recognize it.



Pohnpei Mission School staff and faculty (back row, left to right): Matthew Gearing, Ansel Weber, Alexander Chang, Ashyn Habenicht, Sy Gallimore, and Joel Wagness; (middle) Jamie Nelson, Maddie Carritte, Allison Harker, Madeline Ringering, Juliana Rickard, Micaela Featherston, Lindsey Crumley, Patryk Czajkowski, Nolie Villegas; (front) Leighton Edward, Tracyleen Jano, Emily Villegas (not pictured: Nick Gosney)



Hannah Gregg shows a student how primary colors compliment and contrast with each other during an art class at Majuro Mission School in Delap.

"I say this a lot: I think I'm learning more about myself than my students are learning from me." Hannah adds, "We're going to make mistakes. We're human. We're not perfect, even if we want to be. And that's where God comes in, where love comes in. As I tell my students, their work doesn't have to be perfect. I've been learning the same lesson."

ROOTED IN MISSION

Alex Chang, senior biochemistry/premedicine major, Pacific Union College

All smiles and energy despite the withering early-afternoon heat, Alex climbed onto the tall benches under the "gazebo" near the apartments on the school campus. It was time to start prepping for the school week after a busy weekend—one that included a special Ten Days of Prayer Friday night vespers at the nearest Adventist church (where Alex played piano and spoke), Sabbath church service participation, and a Vacation Bible School in a small village on Sabbath afternoon. Clipping on his mic, Alex was ready to dive into our conversation.

"I've had the opportunity to be on eight different mission trips, and all of that has been leading up to this year abroad in Pohnpei," says Alex. "Mission is really in my blood."

Alex's great-grandfather, a pastor, had been one of the first Adventist converts in China. His grandfather had been a longtime missionary in Southeast Asia, and later a pastor in North America. His father is one of the mission trip coordinators for Alex's home church in California. "It's been fulfilling to be here," explains Alex, "I feel like I'm connecting to my roots."

After developing a keen interest in mission work in high school, Alex felt God leading him to spend a year as an SM after his junior year of college. "God planted His seed in my heart, and I was impressed to come."

Alex is a high school Bible teacher at the K-12 mission school where more than 300 students attend. He doesn't regret a moment of his time in Pohnpei. "A lot of people who go to be student missionaries are excited for the adventures; and they're excited for all the cool outdoor

activities they can do wherever they're being sent," shares Alex. "And while that's definitely a big part of it, my favorite thing is actually the students.

"I really was not prepared for how much I was going to love these students. I wasn't prepared for just loving every moment of being with them in the classroom, having the opportunity to really talk about God for six hours a day with them. It's ended up being the best year of my life so far."

Alex continues, "I have a favorite quote: 'God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.' It's been special to see the way God opens doors; the opportunities He gives me and all the SMs around me to be involved in students' lives; to be involved creating new programs for them; and to really make deeper relationships and deeper connections in a place halfway across the world."

Leaning forward, Alex offers this advice: "Everyone should be a student missionary at some point in their life. There's definitely a paradigm shift that comes from being a student missionary. When your life is dedicated to service, when your life is focused on others, when your life is focused on sharing Jesus with other people, it changes your life. You don't go home the same. You go back home someone with a lot more experience serving the Lord. You come back as someone who has seen the awesome ways that God has worked. You've seen prayers answered."



Alex Chang teaches Bible class at Pohnpei Mission School.

Alex, and these other student missionaries, are living the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19, 20). These experiences not only help others, but change the SMs. "Give God that year of your life, and He will take that space and time and really bless it," says Alex. "He will help you grow. You will see the awesome ways He works in your life, as well as in the lives of the people around you."

* Since our interview, Madeline Ringering has decided to continue as an SM for one more year. She plans to teach second grade next year, staying with the same group of students.

Kimberly Luste Maran is editor of Adventist Journey.

THIS MAGAZINE CONTINUED AFTER **Adventist World**

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NAD NEWS BRIEFS



REFUGEES BRAVE THE COLD FOR FELLOWSHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA

On Sabbath, January 20, 2018, just three days after Greensboro, North Carolina, was buried under six to eight inches of snow that canceled flights and closed schools, at least 170 refugees from six language groups braved the winter conditions to gather at the Greensboro Seventh-day Adventist Church for what they called a “Refugee Families Thanksgiving Worship.”

After a song service by the Karen (pronounced “Ka-REN”) youth and opening prayer by cross-cultural church planter Fabian Reid, the event opened with a colorful parade of nations. Language groups

included Nepali-speaking refugees from Bhutan and their leader from Nepal; Burmese, Karen, and Karenni-speaking refugees from Myanmar; Montagnard refugees from Vietnam; and Kinyarwanda/Kirundi-speaking refugees from Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Each group shared a brief group history and special music. Guests participating in this third annual fellowship event included a local Karenni Baptist congregation.

“It was a tremendous blessing and inspiration to join with local leaders from the Baptist [denomination] and other faith persuasions,” said Carolina

↑ Karen youth lead a song service during “Refugee Families Thanksgiving Worship” at the Greensboro church in North Carolina. Photo provided by Terri Saelee

Conference president Leslie Louis. “I was blessed to participate in this third annual fellowship ministry to refugees.”

Event organizer Jimmy Shwe, who serves as both pastor of the five Karen congregations in the conference and division-wide church planting consultant for the Karen language group, said, “I [would like to] encourage other groups to do it for their language groups. It doesn’t matter what religion. Just invite them and eat with them and pray with them. Build relationships with them.”

—Terri Saelee, *Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries director, North American Division*

U.S. Court of Appeals Rules for Plaintiffs in Sabbath Accommodation Case

On January 17, 2018, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit issued a decision in favor of Richard Tabura and Guadalupe Diaz, former employees of Kellogg USA, who were terminated in 2012 for violating the company’s policy mandating work on Saturdays (the day Tabura and Diaz observed as the Sabbath).

In its decision, justices determined that Kellogg’s “neutral employment policy”—in which all employees desiring a day off were subject to the same requirements—may not rise to the level of reasonable accommodations where personal religious practices were concerned. As such, the Tenth Circuit reversed the prior district court decision, sending the

Christian Record Services Welcomes New Directors

Christian Record Services

for the Blind announced that Jeri Lyn Rogge is the organization’s director of editorial and outreach ministries. Rogge, who served as Christian Record’s communication director since 2015, and in other positions of responsibility since 2013, transitioned to this new role in early 2018.

She is now senior magazine editor, producing several publications in large print, braille, and audio—including *the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*—for people who are legally blind in North America, Bermuda, and Guam-Micronesia.

Rogge will work with church pastors, disability ministry and special needs coordinators, and church members to discover methods and create resources for those with sight impairments. She will work to boost attendance at National Camps for Blind Children.

Rogge assumed these responsibilities from Bert Williams, who retired in spring 2018. Patricia J. Maxwell Robertson will take Rogge’s place as communication director.

—Christian Record Services for the Blind



Jeri Lyn Rogge
Mic Thurber

ACS RELEASES ONLINE WELLNESS HUB FOR SENIORS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Adventist Community Services (ACS) has released an online wellness hub to help bridge the long-distance gap between family caregivers and their parents and grandparents. Offering “The Right Care Resources, Right When You Need Them,” CareOptions gives caretakers tools for prevention, early detection, and care planning that address aging-related health issues before they become unmanageable.

CareOptions is a free resource provided by the Family Healthcare Advisory Program of the North American Division ACS.

Wynelle Stevens, assistant director of ACS and coordinator of ACS’s Older Adult Ministries, emphasized the need to focus on older adults. “A study from the

Administration on Aging found that ‘of those caring for someone 65-years or older, the average age of the caregiver is 63 years, and 33 percent of them are in fair or poor health.’ First Timothy tells us to care for our parents and grandparents as a way to repay them and because it is pleasing to God. That’s an important part of our mission,” she said.

The app-based, aggregate platform allows users to access assessment tools, cost-of-care calculators, evaluation criteria for hospitals, home care, and nursing homes; the ability to create advance directives, evaluate medication compatibility, and more. Visit www.communityservices.org to learn more.

—Adventist Community Services



/iStock/Fred Froesei

case back to the district court for trial (D.C. No. 1:14-CV-00014-TC-PMW).

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church is pleased with this watershed decision upholding the critically important right of Americans to adhere to their religious beliefs in the workplace,” said Todd McFarland, associate general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Back on March 22, 2017, the two former Kellogg employees appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit after a lower court found insufficient evidence that the two Adventist plaintiffs were treated unfairly when they were fired for failing to work on Sabbath.

The case was first argued at the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals by

Gene Schaerr of Schaerr Duncan. The case was handled at the district (trial) court by Alan Reinach of the Pacific Union Conference’s Church-State Council, along with Erik Strindberg and Matt Harrison of Strindberg and Scholnick.

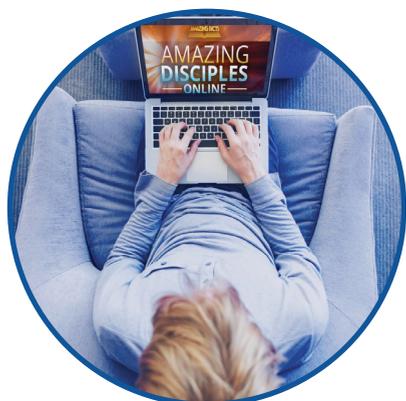
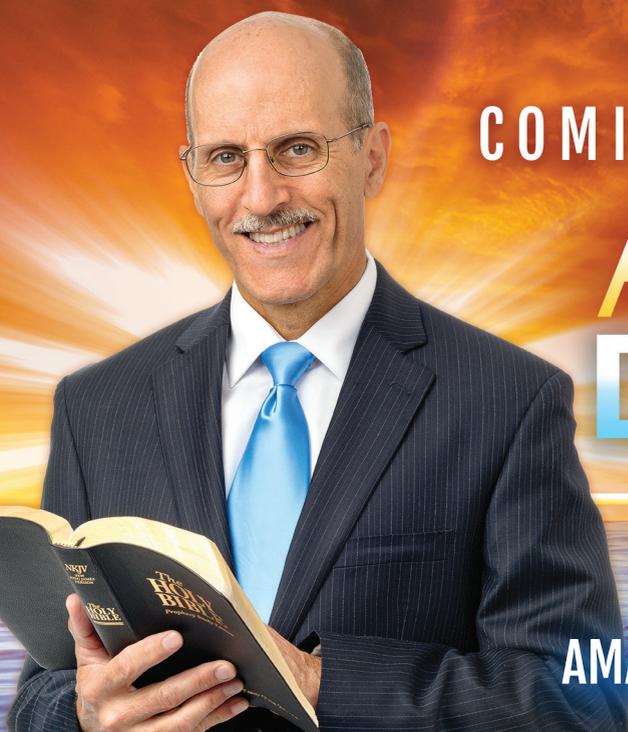
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BY KEN NORTON

“Work, for the Night Is Coming”

Historians are not sure what inspired 18-year-old Anna Louise Walker to pen her now-famous poem. Some say Walker drew her inspiration from watching men work from sunup to sundown in Ontario oil fields during Canada’s oil boom in the mid-1800s. Some speculate that the death of her two older sisters moved her to write it. Others say she was inspired by the words of Jesus in John 9:4: “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”

Whatever the reason, Walker’s poem “The Night Cometh” eventually became the popular hymn “Work, for the Night Is Coming,” and continues to inspire Christians worldwide to faithfully serve God while there is still time. The song’s last stanza has these words:

“Work, for the night is coming;
Under the sunset skies,
While their bright tints are glowing,
Work, for daylight flies;
Work till the last beam fadeth,
Fadeth to shine no more;
Work, for the Lord is coming,
When man’s work is o’er.”

Although this hymn is in the *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, and sung from time to time at our gatherings, do we really believe these words? Do we really believe the time is soon coming “when man’s work is o’er”?

Many young adults are convinced that Jesus is coming soon and that the time to work is now.

Many of us are praying for Jesus to come soon and put an end all the suffering, pain, and evil increasing in our world today, but are we also praying for what Jesus asked us to pray for?

“He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers

are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields” (Matt. 9:37, 38, NLT).^{*} Jesus longs to return, but He is choosing to wait. He is waiting for the precious fruit of the earth to ripen (James 5:7), and He needs

laborers who will respond to His call to work in the harvest fields.

Responding to His Call

Young people today are responding to His call. Like the young Anna Walker, many young adults are convinced that Jesus is coming soon and that the time to work is now. They are choosing to give their time, energy, and talents to work while it is day and to share the love of Jesus and the beautiful truths of God’s Word with those who may have a distorted view of God, or those who have no view of Him at all. They are going as student missionaries to such places as the islands of Micronesia in response to the call of their Savior, believing that the harvest truly is great and that time really *is* short.

As you read their stories in this edition of *Adventist Journey*, please pray for the young people who are now in the mission field. As glamorous as it might appear to serve on an island with coconut trees and white, sandy beaches, the work is difficult, and their sacrifice is great. Young people who have left family and friends to share the gospel of Jesus on the front lines of the mission field covet your prayers. When we pray for them we are praying for *our* mission field, since the islands of Micronesia are part of the Guam-Micronesia Mission, the only attached mission to the North American Division.

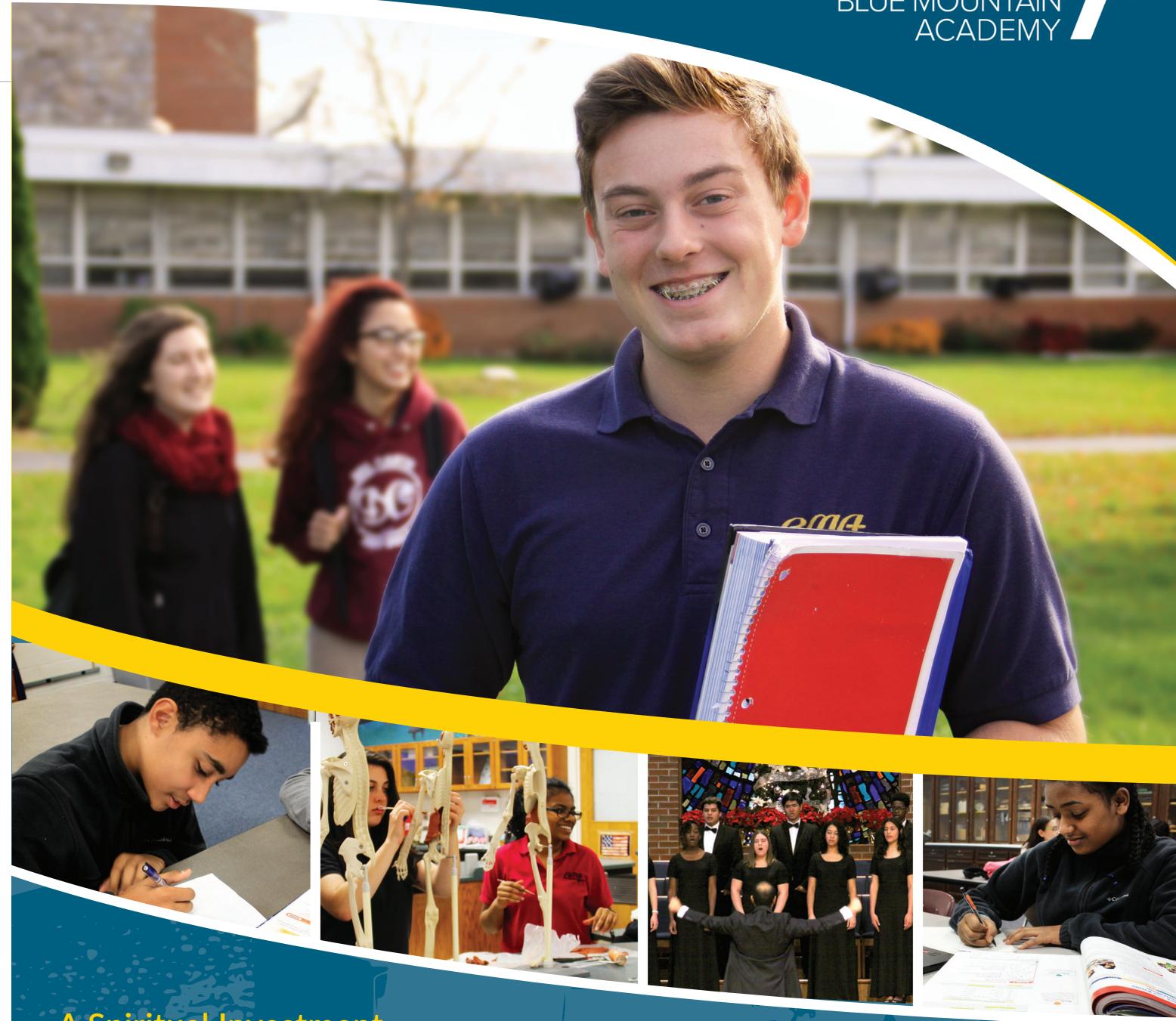
Let us each commit ourselves to join these young people in serving God faithfully in the mission field He has called us to, whether at home or abroad. Let us dedicate ourselves to work while it is day, for indeed the night is coming, when no one can work.

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Ken Norton is president of the Guam-Micronesia Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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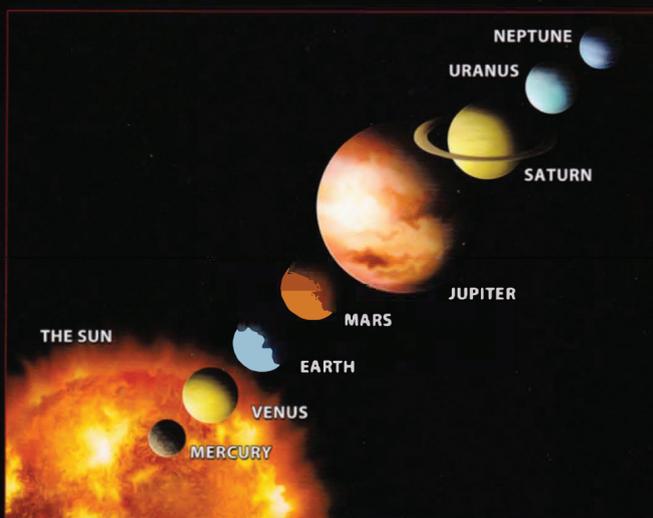
If you believe life created itself from non-living matter,
Cosmic War will trigger serious second thoughts.

COSMIC WAR

BATTLEFIELD EARTH

*"Now the earth was formless and empty,
darkness was over the surface of the deep, and
the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

Genesis 1:2



© Aaron Ritten

"God said, 'Let there be light!'...and there was light."

Genesis 1:3

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