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# Adventist Journey

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## My Journey

Before we got off our knees, our 5-year-old son Brayden went to sleep. God waited on me to get my heart right, my mind right, before He let him go to sleep. He literally took me through the healing process before the death. In that process He was training me, transforming me into who He wanted me to be so that now I can speak for Him.

—SAMONNA WATTS, J.D.,  
motivational speaker and author



Visit [vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajsamonnawatts](https://vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajsamonnawatts) for more of Samonna's story.



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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## ADVENTIST JOURNEY

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# ADVENTIST PHARMACY WORKER'S CASE EXPECTED TO GO TO U.S. SUPREME COURT

For the first time in more than 30 years, the High Court is more likely to accept a Sabbath case.

BY TODD MCFARLAND

*The issue of religious liberty is poised to surge to the forefront of current events with a case expected to hit the U.S. Supreme Court this fall. Updates will be provided if/when the case moves forward.—Editors.*

**W**algreens doesn't accommodate religious accommodations." That's how Darrell Patterson's supervisor at Walgreens described the company's policy. Despite that very frank (and honest) assessment, despite the fact that Walgreens violated its own policies by firing Patterson, and despite the fact that Walgreens suffered no hardship from his not working on Sabbath, four judges in two different courts decided that Walgreens didn't violate the law. Now in 2018 the U.S. Supreme Court is being asked to set this injustice right and clarify the law for all people of faith for the first time in more than 30 years.

## Background

Darrell Patterson started working for Walgreens in 2007 at its call center in Orlando, Florida. His job as a trainer, which he had been quickly promoted to after his hire, was normally conducted during regular business hours, even though the call center operated seven days a week, 16 hours a day. While Patterson had some Sabbath schedul-

ing problems, for the first four years he was always able to resolve them.

In 2011, however, it became clear Walgreens wanted to make a change. Weeks before he was fired, the same supervisor who said Walgreens didn't accommodate told Patterson that he needed to be "more flexible" with his schedule. This was troubling since the only time Patterson was not available was during the Sabbath. He reiterated his willingness to work whenever needed, except on his Sabbath.

A couple weeks later, on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, Walgreens received a letter from the Alabama Board of Pharmacy. Walgreens operated another call center in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and it recently came to the attention to the pharmacy board that the call center handled prescription refills. Unfortunately for Walgreens, this violated Alabama state law. Employees needed to either be pharmacists or pharmacy technicians to handle refill calls. The call center employees were neither.

Despite being a multibillion-dollar corporation ranked nineteenth on the Fortune 500 list, of which the princi-

Despite the facts, Patterson lost both at the trial court and on appeal.

pal business activity is dispensing drugs, Walgreens was either ignorant of Alabama pharmacy law or willfully violating it. Having been caught by the Alabama authorities, Walgreens scrambled to transfer all the prescription calls to the Orlando call center before the Alabama authorities showed up.

On Friday afternoon, August 9, Patterson, while in the middle of teaching, was handed “emergency” training materials to facilitate the transfer, plus an assignment to work Saturday and Sunday morning. When finished teaching, he tried to call his manager to get coverage for the Sabbath assignment, but she was out of town and had left her cell phone at home. He also asked his fellow trainer to cover for him, but she had conflicting child-care issues.

On Sunday when he reported to work, he was told by his fellow trainer that she was now assigned the Sunday training. On Monday Patterson trained the people who were missed on Saturday. After completing this training, his employment was suspended pending an investigation of his Saturday absence. On Thursday he was fired for violating Walgreens’ attendance policy.

### On the Case

Patterson should have prevailed in his discrimination case for a number of reasons. First, Walgreens violated its own attendance policy. The progressive discipline process did not call for termination until after “three strikes.” Even assuming his absence for one Saturday was a strike, it should have resulted in only a verbal warning.

Second, Walgreens experienced no hardship. Despite missing the training on Saturday, Walgreens still transferred all the calls to Orlando, as it had planned. Walgreens was not able to point to a single

harm or customer service failure because of the delayed training. Further, Walgreens had other options beside Patterson to conduct the training on Saturday, including one supervisor who was specifically told not to cover the training for Patterson when she volunteered.

Despite the facts, Patterson lost both at the trial court and on appeal. What Walgreens argued, and the courts ruled, was that none of this mattered. All Walgreens had to do was offer Patterson a job that reduced or mitigated his Sabbath problems, not eliminate them. Of course, for an Adventist, having to work fewer Sabbaths is hardly an accommodation at all. The court also ruled that because Walgreens might have another emergency or change in its staffing levels Patterson’s inability to work on Saturday might cause a problem in the future and therefore that was an undue hardship.

Before losing his job, Patterson was offered a job at half the pay as a customer care representative. However, even this proposal came with the caveat that he might still be scheduled on Sabbath. Patterson was not interested transferring to a job that paid less, had fewer responsibilities, and didn’t eliminate Sabbath problems.

In ruling as it did, the Atlanta-based appeals court created legal

uncertainty. Different courts in the country have interpreted the law in different ways. Most courts have said that an accommodation must actually eliminate or resolve the conflict. Those same courts have also ruled that a hardship can’t be based on speculation about the future.

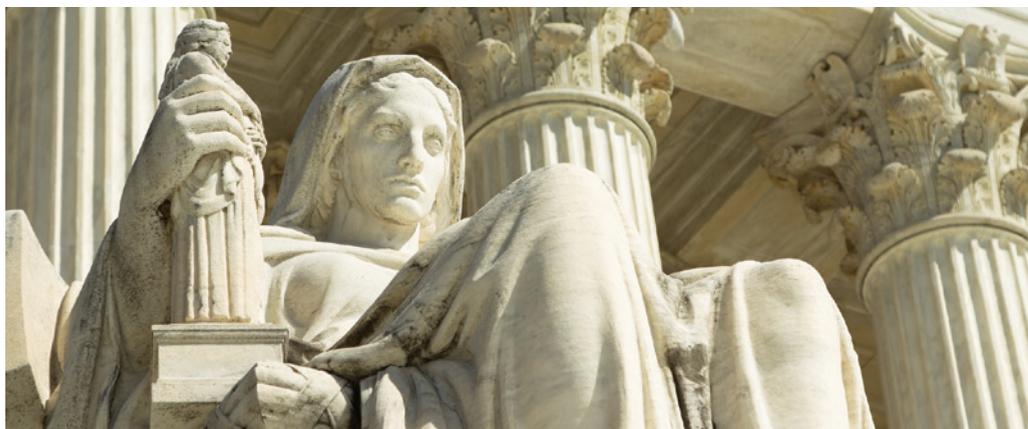
### Protecting Religious Freedom

One of the Supreme Court’s primary jobs is to resolve these types of conflicts. While the Court accepts only a small fraction of the cases litigants ask it to take, Patterson’s case has a reasonable chance of being heard. The Supreme Court has not addressed the issues in Patterson’s case since 1977 and 1986. With more than a 30-year silence on these issues and disagreements among lower courts, the Supreme Court it is more likely to take his case.

Defending a case like this is neither simple nor cheap. Patterson was fired more than seven years ago, and attorneys have poured hundreds of hours into his case. His faithfulness along with the church’s support have set up the possibility for people of faith to be protected in the years and decades to come.

*Todd McFarland is associate general counsel for the Office of General Counsel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

*flySnow/iStock*





# THE PRODUCT OF **PURPOSE**

**What happens when  
faith spearheads a career  
in the fight against  
human trafficking?**

BY MYLON MEDLEY

**I**t was as easy as listening,” said Amanda Rodriguez, advocate for survivors of human trafficking, when describing how she became an attorney.

“I remember the exact moment,” Rodriguez said as she recounted the day during her undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland, College Park when she walked across campus to class in the pouring rain. Her strides were accented with prayers as she thought about life postcollege. She was unsure about how she would use her English degree upon graduation. Further, she didn’t know which career she wanted to pursue. “All of a sudden I just heard, ‘Go to law school.’”

linephoto/iStock

That same day Rodriguez went to a career counselor who told her about a unique program offered through the University of Baltimore School of Law that would allow her to complete her first year of law school during her final year of college. She applied, got accepted, and went on to successfully complete her tenure at law school.

Rodriguez served the Maryland State's Attorney's Office for seven years, where she also joined the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force. She then transitioned to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention for one year before serving for three years as chief program officer for TurnAround, a nonprofit agency that provides services and support to victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

In early summer 2018 Rodriguez took a position at another nonprofit organization that also provides comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking and aims to influence immigration policy as it relates to trafficking.

"I fell in love with being the voice for people who didn't have one. I found myself in the work. I found my voice, my strength. God led," said Rodriguez.

### "I Found Myself in the Work"

The genesis of her more than 10 years' experience in the fight against human trafficking began while researching for a business writing assignment in law school. The topic was "buying and selling of any goods." Rodriguez' husband, who is an immigrant, inspired her deep passion for immigration law and reform. She wanted to incorporate immigration law into her assignment, but had difficulty thinking of an intersection of the two. But when she consulted Google, "human trafficking" came up in her search results. Rodriguez completed her assignment on the topic; then she put the paper aside without giving it further thought. Fast-forward to her first job out of law

school. She was hired by the state's attorney's offices to fill its only vacant position at the time—prosecutor for human trafficking cases in Baltimore county. God's providence was also seen with the passing of Maryland's first human trafficking law during her first year as a prosecutor.

"It was all God's leading. I really had nothing to do with it. This was not my plan," said Rodriguez.

### Esther Moments

In 2012 Rodriguez had a case that reaffirmed her life's purpose.

"It was one of my first jury trials. I was really nervous about it. I had anxiety attacks."

Part of the case rested on the testimony of a woman who appeared to be sympathetic toward her abuser. She did not want him to go to jail, and said she loved him. Even the detective assigned to the case told Rodriguez there was no way she would be able to testify the following day. But later that same evening the woman sat across from Rodriguez and asked if she knew the song "I Knew You Were Trouble," by Taylor Swift. The song is about a man who mistreated a woman.

"She told me, without telling me, that she's ready," Rodriguez said.

The woman testified, then returned home. The trial took place over several days. At the end of the trial Rodriguez called her with the news that the woman's abuser had been convicted. The woman said, "I think you saved my life."

"No," Rodriguez replied, "I'm pretty sure you saved mine."

After some time the same woman tracked down Rodriguez, who had transitioned to another job. The woman asked Rodriguez to attend her upcoming high school graduation. Rodriguez accepted the invitation, and she and her husband drove to the ceremony.

While Rodriguez sat in the audience, she reflected on the woman's new life ahead of her. She thought, *I don't know if God put me in this world because of a masterful "I'm going to change the world [quest]." Or if it's "I'm going to change the world for one person," maybe it was for this one person.*

That thought has motivated Rodriguez throughout her career.

"Every time I interact with a survivor, I wonder: *Is it because of this one individual that God put me in this position?* It happens often."

"Sometimes I have Esther moments. I think about the passage in which Mordecai tells her, 'Maybe God put



Amanda Rodriguez, a U.S. attorney who advocates against human trafficking, is working to influence immigration policy.  
Mylon Medley

*Favor\_of\_God/iStock*

you in this position for such a time as this.' It touches me," said Rodriguez. "I don't know why God put me here, but I'm going to keep trusting that He knows what He's doing."

### Expanding the Definition of Abuse

Rodriguez is chair of her local church's enditnow committee. enditnow is an awareness and support service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church primarily for victims of domestic abuse. Rodriguez has expanded the scope of her church's ministry to include human trafficking.

"There's so much intersectionality between the different types of abuse. To have it only focus on domestic violence doesn't really make sense because the abuser in a domestic violence situation uses the same modus operandi (M.O.) as an abuser in a trafficking situation."

While the enditnow program at Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church began with low engagement, there has been a shift as awareness continues to increase. "It has been really impactful at our local church," said Rodriguez, who has organized educational events not only for fellow members but also for the church's surrounding community.

### How to Help

Human trafficking is usually thought to be an international issue. According to a report by the International Labor Organization,<sup>1</sup> an estimated 40.3 million individuals are victims of human trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation. While it is an alarming epidemic, the United States is not excluded from what human rights experts call modern-day slavery. In 2017 the National Human Trafficking Hotline in the U.S. received 26,557 calls and reported 8,500 cases of human trafficking.<sup>2</sup>

Rodriguez says there are many ways a local church can help this cause. The first step is to have a willing heart.

"Sometimes I'm disappointed in the church's response to local issues; and I see this as a local issue," said Rodriguez. "If we're supposed to follow Matthew 25:40, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me' [NIV], these are the people we can help and can bring to the church. We just have to be willing to do the work."



The second step is to know the signs.

"It depends on the type of trafficking," Rodriguez explained. Various types include domestic servitude, commercial sex trafficking, and labor trafficking. Brothels operate in apartment buildings and hotels. In cases of sex trafficking "you'd see 'watchers,' people standing outside doors or constantly looking out of windows," said Rodriguez. In hotels men bringing multiple women into their rooms is often another sign of trafficking. Rodriguez says it's also prevalent in many massage parlors.

According to Rodriguez, church members should use resources that are available in their communities.

"Start by connecting with your local rape crisis center. They are doing the work or are willing to do the work for victims of human trafficking," said Rodriguez.

On a larger scale Rodriguez believes the Adventist Church is positioned to address critical areas that directly affect the lives of human trafficking survivors, including affordable housing, and the opioid epidemic.

"There are social problems that need to be fixed. . . . The church can engage on those levels. We have the resources; we just have to be willing to open the doors."

### Sustaining Faith

Human trafficking is believed to be the third-largest criminal activity in the world, and has no demographic restrictions, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.<sup>3</sup> "There are horrific stories," said Rodriguez. "But [it's inspiring] to see the strength of survivors. It's made my faith stronger."

"At the end of the day I understand this is sin and the work of Satan, but it won't stop me from doing what I'm doing. I know this is my purpose. I know God has led me on this path."

<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organization and Walk Free Foundation, "Global Estimates of Modern Slavery" (September 2017), [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_575479.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_575479.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics, [humantraffickinghotline.org/states](http://humantraffickinghotline.org/states), accessed July 11, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> "Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude," [www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/human-trafficking](http://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/human-trafficking), accessed July 11, 2018.

*Mylon Medley is an assistant director of communication for the North American Division. Amanda Rodriguez and her husband, German, also an attorney, met at Highland View Academy. They live in Maryland with their two children.*

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Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president (left), G. Alexander Bryant, NAD executive secretary, and Ken Denslow, executive assistant to the president of NAD, unveil a portrait during the C.D. Brooks Prayer Chapel dedication ceremony. *Pieter Damsteegt*

# NAD DEDICATES C.D. BROOKS PRAYER CHAPEL

Beloved evangelist served as chaplain to NAD staff in his final years of ministry.

BY MYLON MEDLEY

**T**his chapel is our mission control,” said Alvin Kibble, North American Division (NAD) vice president, as he welcomed guests to the C. D. Brooks Prayer Chapel dedication ceremony in the division’s headquarters in Columbia, Maryland.

On June 7, 2018, approximately 70 family members, NAD employees, and guests listened as various church leaders shared memories of the renowned Adventist evangelist, who passed away June 5, 2016, at age 85.

Brooks’s legacy as pastor, mentor, and evangelist spanned more than six decades, and took him to nearly all of the world’s continents through the millions of hearts he reached, the 16 churches he established, and the countless ministers he mentored. While retired, Brooks accepted the call to serve as chaplain to the division’s staff in 2013.

“Many of our employees went to Elder Brooks for counsel, marital counsel, prayer, spiritual upliftment, or when they felt alone. They always left his office with a clear focus, more encouraged, and hopeful,” said G. Al-

exander Bryant, NAD executive secretary. “Many of our employees may not have known him as an evangelist, but they knew him as a spiritual man of God, a servant of God, [who was] full of wisdom, integrity, and truth.”

## Brooks’s Walking Ministry

A common theme shared was the effect of his presence—more specifically, his walk. “There was a way Elder Brooks walked—deliberate, methodical, focused, missional,” continued Bryant. “He had the ability to change the atmosphere of a room just by his presence.”

“C.D. walked up and down the halls of the North American Division like a prince,” said Dan Jackson, NAD president, who said Brooks always greeted him in the halls with encouragement and a reminder of Brooks’s continuous prayers for him. “He was a person of great dignity, but also great humility. Wherever we went in the office, he blessed people. Whenever he talked to people, they were blessed.”



← The stained-glass window was created by Clayton Connolly. The glass portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is surrounded by nine sheep, representing the division's nine union conferences. *Pieter Damsteegt*

### Naming the Chapel

"Right from the beginning we had anticipated having a prayer chapel," said Ken Denslow, executive assistant to the president of the NAD, and coordinator of the new NAD headquarters building project.

"It's important for a religious institution to have a place that is set aside specifically for worship and prayer. There are many places [where] worship and prayer take place in the building, but this is a special place—it's a house of prayer."

Before the grand opening of the division's new corporate headquarters, a contest was held to determine a name for the chapel. According to Denslow, 10 people entered the name "C. D. Brooks," and upon official vote, his name received overwhelming support from division employees.

"The reason this is the C. D. Brooks [chapel] is that he was a caregiver to the North American Division staff. He was a beloved chaplain."

### Inside the Prayer Chapel

The chapel contains two pieces of art: a stained-glass window and a portrait of Brooks, which was unveiled during the ceremony.

The stained-glass window was created by Clayton Connolly, an Adventist artist whose art can be found in the administrative offices of the Hawaii Conference and North Pacific Union Conference (NPUC). His largest work is located in the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church on the campus of Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. The assembling effort was managed by Monte Church, former director for NPUC Native Ministries.

The glass portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus is surrounded by nine sheep, representing the division's nine union conferences. The glass is unique because of its "hidden" message: Morse Code borders the glass with the message, "Feed My Sheep, NAD."

### Longing for Heaven

Toward the end of the program, guests were invited to sing Brooks's favorite hymn, "When We All Get to Heaven." His wife, Walterene, spoke on the importance of the blessed hope of Christ's return.

"This is wonderful; we'll never forget it. But there's going to be one day when we can be all together in heaven with Jesus," she said. "I want to be able to tell him [Brooks], I want my children next to him, so we can say, 'Guess what happened at NAD? They honored you for your service, your work, and what you did in God's name. They honored you



↑ Members of the Brooks family pose under a portrait of C. D. Brooks in the division headquarters prayer chapel. *Pieter Damsteegt*

because you believed in Jesus, and you preached on many continents, and by God's grace many people accepted His message."

Brooks's son Charles Jr., "Skip," called attention to the recent anniversary of his father's passing and left NAD employees with a charge.

"June 5 is no longer a day of sadness for us, but a monument pointing toward that better day, the day of resurrection and renewing," he said. "So in memory of [my father] . . . the man who lived what he preached, I charge you, NAD, to hold up the light, stay faithful, make good use of this chapel, and pray a lot."

*Mylon Medley is an assistant director of communication for the North American Division.*

# NAD NEWS BRIEFS

↓ Oakwood University Aeolians win big at 2018 World Choir Games held in Tshwane, South Africa. *Provided by Oakwood University*



## AEOLIANS WIN AT WORLD CHOIR GAMES

The Oakwood University Aeolians achieved the highest scores in two categories to win at the tenth edition of World Choir Games in Tshwane, South Africa. Competing in the categories of spirituals, musica contemporanea, and university and college, the Aeolians bested 14 other choirs from around the world to succeed, not only with the highest score in two of the three categories, but also by winning three gold medals—two of which were championships at the biennial event.

The invited choirs this year hailed from around Africa and Europe and beyond, including such locales such as Singapore, Indonesia, Argentina, and the United States.

This year marks the thirtieth annual games, and through 11 days of competition the Aeolians repeated their gold medal wins from the 2012 World Choirs Games in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“We are delighted to acknowledge, to the glory of God, the hard work, sacrifice, and leadership of the Aeolians,” says Leslie Pollard, president of Oakwood University. “The Aeolians represent a treasure for our Seventh-day Adventist Church, the city of Huntsville, the state of Alabama, and the United States. Congratulations to our music department, and especially our devoted students, who compose this world-renowned group.”

Another North American Division school choir, Takoma Academy (Maryland), won a gold medal in the spiritual category, a silver medal in jazz, and a silver medal in mixed youth.

—Kenn Dixon, director, Integrated Marketing and Public Relations, Oakwood University

## TRANSITION IN OWNERSHIP PLANNED FOR WGTS

WGTS 91.9 is transitioning from Washington Adventist University (WAU) to a separate nonprofit entity. Pending approval by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), it will soon be owned and operated by a new corporation called Atlantic Gateway Communications, Inc. (AGC), which has been incorporated specifically for this purpose.

On May 9, 2018, the WAU Board of Trustees voted to divest itself of the station’s operating license for \$12 million. Administrators expect the purchase to be completed this fall, with all assets trans-

ferring to the newly formed nonprofit AGC, Inc.

“While ownership will change, our mission, programming, team, and focus remains on bringing our listeners in the Washington, D.C., region a message of hope and encouragement,” said Kevin Krueger, vice president and general manager. “We are so thankful for the foundation that has been built over the past 60 years at WAU. Now, much like a college student coming of age and moving out of Mom and Dad’s house, WGTS 91.9 is moving forward and expanding.”

—Jerry Woods, WGTS

## JOIN THE #enditnowNAD MOVEMENT

She was 16 and attending a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school where I had been speaking for the weekend. Her shoulders were hunched, her eyes on the ground. “I’m sorry. I just need a minute,” she whispered.

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she looked up. “Am I still a virgin if I was raped?”

I wish I could tell you this was a singular incident, but sadly, that’s not the case. Our schools are not immune to sexual abuse, harassment, or date rape. This is a reality we can change. Join the #enditnowNAD movement and help us break the silence about abuse:

1. Hold an enditnow Emphasis Day at your church/school. [www.enditnownorthamerica.org/ein-emphasis-day](http://www.enditnownorthamerica.org/ein-emphasis-day)
2. Watch the free, live-streamed Summit on Abuse, September 24 (Spanish) and 25 (English) [www.enditnownorthamerica.org/pastors-summit](http://www.enditnownorthamerica.org/pastors-summit)
3. Talk to your youth groups about the warning signs of dating violence. [www.loveisrespect.org/for-yourself/safety-planning](http://www.loveisrespect.org/for-yourself/safety-planning).

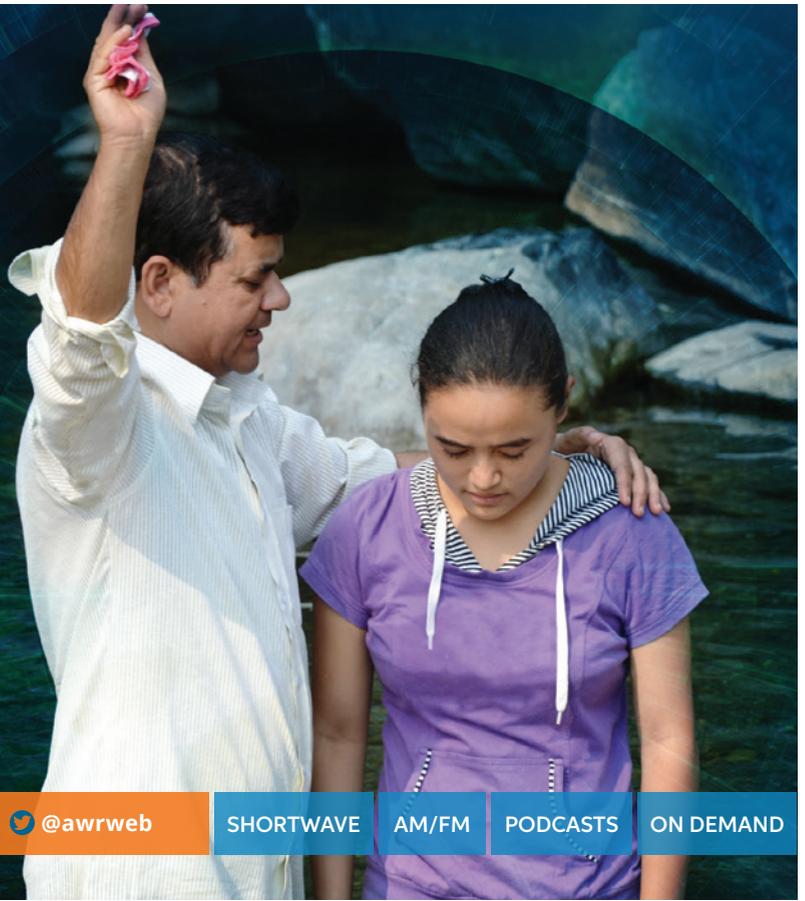
—Erica Jones, assistant director, NAD Women’s Ministries



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**500 CHILDREN URGENTLY NEED SPONSORSHIP NOW!**

BY BEVERLY AND DAVID SEDLACEK

# No Time to Waste

**I**t's the phone call we prayed would never happen. The family thought she had learned from her experience of domestic violence. She publicly declared that she was ready to start a new chapter without the abusive man in her life. She finally planned to leave. But her life tragically ended before she could do so.

Stories such as the one above are all too common. Domestic violence, also called intimate partner violence (IPV), is a national public health crisis that must be addressed.

IPV occurs when one partner in an intimate relationship abuses the other. The abuse can be physical/sexual, emotional/financial, stalking, or a combination of all these. Physical abuse may vary from less-severe forms such as shoving, pushing, and throwing, to the more aggressive forms of slapping, punching, and forced sexual intercourse, even murder. Emotional abuse involves persistent humiliation, shaming, threats, control of physical activity, control of money, and social isolation. Stalking involves a pattern of unwanted harassment or threats used by perpetrators causing fear or safety concerns in victims.

National IPV statistics are startling, with an estimated one in three women (43.6 million), and one in 10 men (11.8 million) having reported contact sexual violence, physical assault, and/or stalking in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, statistics are similar within the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America.<sup>2</sup>

## Before It Happens

Research data indicate that IPV begins in adolescence, and education about healthy relationships must take place during this critical time. The goal is to prevent IPV before it begins. School-based social/emotional learning programs have demonstrated effectiveness in helping youth and young adults develop and practice the skills needed in healthy relationships.<sup>3</sup> These skills include conflict resolution, healthy communication, and anger management.

Education about the characteristics of healthy relationships designed to raise awareness of behaviors that raise red flags are also useful. These behaviors include controlling behavior, excessive texting, forced social isolation, and bullying. Strong family-based programs have been shown to be vital for teens and young adult couples to promote positive relationship expectations.

Several protective factors have been shown to lower the probability of perpetrating or experiencing IPV. These factors include good school relationships and grades, the ability to express feelings, and high levels of empathy. These factors are useful to emphasize in discussion with parents.

## A Vital Role

The church plays an important role in creating a safe community and an environment in which IPV is addressed, not covered up. An appropriate understanding of Scripture is also protective. Local churches must become aware of resources in their communities designed to help both victims and perpetrators. The message that violence of any kind will not be tolerated must be clearly sent. Perpetrators must experience appropriate consequences along with the help they need. enditnow, the Adventist Church's program to create awareness and help prevent IPV, must continue to be supported.

God models and is vitally interested in healthy relationships; and the church has an obligation to support and educate its members about the value He places upon them.

We must openly discuss what is happening within our church community and advocate for those who have experienced IPV. We also have the opportunity to develop programs that teach skills to develop healthy relationships to children, youth, young adults, and adults within families. We have no time to waste.

<sup>1</sup> S. G. Smith, X. Zhang, K. C. Basile, M. T. Merrick, J. Wang, M. Kresnow, J. Chen, "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2015 Data Brief" (Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control, 2015). Retrieved from [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/2015NISVdatabrief.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/2015NISVdatabrief.html).

<sup>2</sup> R. D. Drumm, D. C. McBride, G. Hopkins, J. Thayer, M. Popescu, and J. Wrenn (2006). "Intimate Partner Violence in a Conservative Christian Denomination: Prevalence and Types." *Social Work and Christianity* 33, no. 3 (Fall 2006): 233-251.

<sup>3</sup> P. H. Niolon, M. Kearns, J. Dills, K. Rambo, S. Irving, T. L. Armstead, L. Gilbert, "Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Across the Lifespan: A Technical Package of Programs, Policies, and Practices" (Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control, 2017). Retrieved from [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-technicalpackages.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-technicalpackages.pdf).

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