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## Adventist Journey

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### My Journey

I had this moment of complete honesty with God in which I said, "I don't think I can hold on to You anymore. So if You want me to stay, You have to hold on to me." Since then He's held on to me. It was an important part of my journey to realize that it's not *me* holding on to *Him*. It's not my faith that saves me, but His faithfulness and Him holding on to me.

Visit [vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajrebekahhelsius](https://vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajrebekahhelsius) for more of Helsius' story.

**REBEKAH HELSIUS,**  
artist, master guide, Pathfinder Club  
director for the Wisconsin Conference



Cover Photo by Mylon Medley

**Dear Reader:** The publication in your hands represents the collaborative efforts of the North American Division and *Adventist World* magazine, which follows *Adventist Journey* (after page 16). Please enjoy both magazines!

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#### ADVENTIST JOURNEY

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Pastor Michael Campos baptizes Kryslin Maldonado, a Pathfinder from the Hinsdale Fil-Am Seventh-day Adventist Church in Illinois. Maldonado was one of 1,311 baptized at the 2019 Oshkosh camporee. *Dan Weber*



# “CHOSEN”

## in Oshkosh

More than 55,000 gather at the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee in Wisconsin.

**N**ail gun staccato punctures the evening quiet as Pathfinder Club camporee entrances are built at campsites. The gentle hum of generators near RVs and tents blend with night sounds of the outdoors. The purr and whirr of golf carts traversing campsites on roads soon to be limited to only pedestrian traffic break the quiet as gates and barricades for safety are erected. The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) in Wisconsin, home of the beloved “Oshkosh Camporee” since 1999, would not be quiet for long. The night before many of the more than 55,000 arrive at the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee stands nearly quiet, in stark contrast to the intervening days of drill drum corps playing along walkways, rambunctious pin traders looking to find and trade for “super rare” pins, and youth cooling off under shady trees and on water slides.

Honors and other fun activities in the hangar area (think Pathfinder museum, virtual reality action at the Ad-

ventist Review Ministries tent, and a giant dinosaur *and* potato), camp stages, festive food court, nightly programs beginning with baptisms, and Compassion projects and off-site activity buses rolling through bus areas make for a lively campus. These all lead up to the closing program of the camporee, which includes a rousing song service, energetic evening speaker Damian Chandler, the Adventist ventriloquist Ryan and Lily act, the conclusion of the dramatic live-action David play (with a camel and live sheep on stage!), a 20-minute (or more) fireworks display, and the big reveal of the 2024 theme, “Believe the Promise.” Busy and bustling is an understatement!

Streams of tired and happy campers trek back to their sites. Tents come down, lines of buses exit, roads still. By Sunday afternoon only muddy trails and memories are left.

Here are a few highlights from the event before the quiet again came to the fields of the EAA. These are small glimpses into the massive event, where Jesus took center stage, along with His “chosen” youth. —*Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD Office of Communication*



**Outreach in Oshkosh**

As Christians we are called to serve others,” said Paulo Macena, community service/Compassion projects coordinator for the camporee. “When Pathfinders participate in community service projects, they learn the joy of service, civic responsibilities, and the satisfaction of a job well done.”

About 6,000 Pathfinders and club staff and leaders assisted in 57 local service efforts in Oshkosh and the surrounding communities. Each week day, buses rolled out morning and afternoon as teams helped in shifts at food pantries, shelters, the humane society, thrift stores, and a plethora of other nonprofit organizations.

On August 14 several clubs from Texas and Florida visited the Feeding America distribution center in Appleton, Wisconsin, where they repackaged 400-pound bags of organic Cheerios into small, family-friendly-sized two-pound bags that were sent to local food banks, says Dustin Hermann, volunteer coordinator, who estimates that groups repackaged about 10,000 pounds throughout the week.

Other clubs learned new skills as they completely removed the old carpet at Father Carr’s Food Pantry and helped fix air conditioners at the facility’s women’s shelter.

Ivana Rojas, a regional Pathfinder director from Paraguay, came to Oshkosh with her twin sister Melissa (the national director) to take home implementable ideas. The young adults signed up for a Compassion project because “we want to serve. We want to share with other Pathfinders how to serve as Jesus said and did,” said Rojas. “We have to serve and show love—we have to help the community. That is a good way to share our faith and our hope.”

George Ballesteros, who has attended three previous Oshkosh camporees, believes that partaking in community service teaches an



↑ A group of Pathfinders pose for a photo in between activities at the 2019 Chosen International Camporee. *Sonja Hults*

↓ Anna Coridan (right), New Change for Youth (NC4Y) Pathfinder Club director in the Iowa-Missouri Conference, marches with her club comprised primarily of refugees from Nepal during a parade at the 2019 camporee. *Anthony White*



important lesson to the youth, which include his own children. His small club from Plant City, Florida, wanted to help at the Habitat for Humanity Restore shop. The Restore sells used furniture, glassware, lamps, and more at a deeply discounted price to help fund Habitat’s housing projects.

“Helping others gets them to do something they usually may not be involved with—and with another group in a different place,” said Ballesteros. “It’s all about compassion and showing how you can help other people. It’s a way to share who we are—and what we do leaves an impact. . . . You lead by example.”

One of the more unique projects was called Project Chosen. Teams of youth and club leaders traversed the streets of Oshkosh distributing

Guide magazines to residents. Each Pathfinder was given seven magazines; 3,000 copies were handed out.

Sofia Infante, a Pathfinder from the Flaming Falcons of the Marantha Spanish church in Ontario, Canada, shared, “We’ve done this before in Ontario, but it’s cool to do this in another city, with a different group of people,” referring to the Garland Jaguars Pathfinder Club from the Garland Faith Community Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas.

“It’s nice to spread the Word of God, especially in a community that seems to have a lot of teenagers—there are a lot of rentals, and a university nearby. It’s teenagers spreading the word to other teenagers,” added Infante.

—*Kimberly Luste Maran, V. Michelle Bernard, Mylon Medley*

**Photos and Stories**

There is so much to share from the camporee! Here are some links to online coverage:

- **Camporee photo albums** at Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/nadadventist/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nadadventist/albums)
- **NAD News Link** [www.nadadventist.org/news](http://www.nadadventist.org/news)
- **Chosen Camporee DVDs** are available for purchase from AdventSource ([www.advent-source.org](http://www.advent-source.org), or 1-800-328-0525).

- Check your **union conference magazine** websites and fall print editions for more news and features from Oshkosh.
- And . . . get ready for the **2024 Believe the Promise** International Camporee in Oshkosh!



**FAST AND FUN FACTS FROM OSHKOSH**

**56,000** attended the camporee

**1,444** Pathfinders clubs registered

**1,311** Pathfinders baptized

925 volunteers

**“Chosen” song** sung seven times during general sessions



**13,309** form largest human cross, certified by the Guinness World Records

**102** countries present with international attendees

4,000+ international attendees

**\$20 mil** At least \$20 million in revenue brought to Oshkosh during camporee.

**\$1 mil** \$1 million in business at local Walmart on Monday; during the camporee it was the busiest Walmart in the world.



interested in cooking, then young people will ultimately learn to make their own food.”

Shaw is chef and owner of Real Veggie Café in Island Park, Long Island, New York, and a “lifelong” Pathfinder.

—*Kimberly Luste Maran*

### A Slice of Hangar Life

Visitors walking through the four hangars on the campus of the 2019 camporee had the opportunity to experience a microcosm of Adventism—from bumping into Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, to earning a one-of-a-kind humanitarian ADRA International pin, to meeting recruiters from Seventh-day Adventist schools across North America, to praying with directors from the NAD’s Ministerial Association.

Outside and inside the hangars also lurked real dinosaur fossils, including Arty, a 16-foot-tall dinosaur in Southwestern Adventist University’s dinosaurs, fossils, and reptiles display in Hangar D. The area offered several honor class options, two live boa constrictors, approximately 60 fossils, including some that were given away (while supplies lasted).

As campers made memories with old and new friends, Dixie Plata, one of the cofounders of the Adventist Youth Ministries Museum, hopes visitors will take time to remember Pathfinder events and milestones of the past. The exhibit, which took up about half of Hangar D, contained Pathfinder artifacts including a completely handwritten Bible; manuals and handbooks from as far back as 1929; pins; honors; and more.

—*V. Michelle Bernard, Columbia Union Visitor*

### Honored at Oshkosh

Honors are key components of the Pathfinder curriculum that help youth learn valuable spiritual, recreational, and practical skills they can carry in ministry and beyond.

Pathfinders were encouraged to amass as many skills and experiences as possible whenever honors are offered through their clubs, conferences, and union conferences. But camporees are an especially good occasion to earn lots of honors in a compressed time frame. With this in mind, more than 170 honors classes were available for the Pathfinders who attended the 2019 Chosen International Camporee.

The honors offered at the camporee appeal to many interests, including leatherwork,

knife throwing, biblical archaeology, origami, robotics, space exploration, and gift wrapping. There were also more service-oriented honors, including learning how to witness to others of through the “cross-cultural mission” honor or understanding how to resolve conflict with the “peace maker” honor. Two new honors made their debut: the braille and refugee assistance honors.

—*Mylon Medley, NAD Office of Communication*

### ACS Bucket Brigade

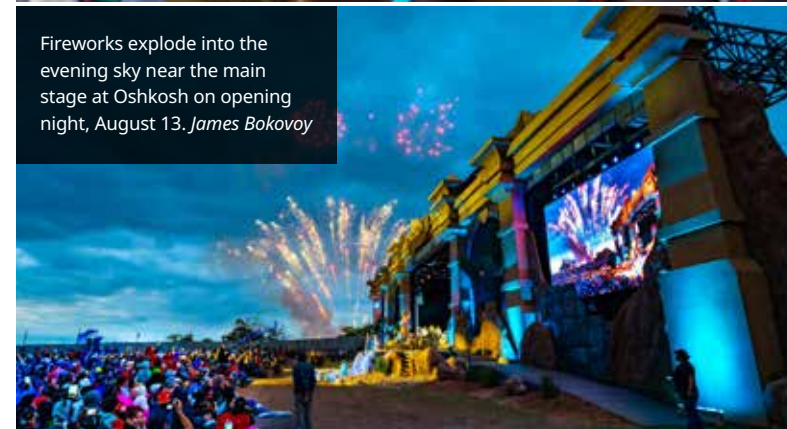
Supplies to fill 5,000 yellow buckets were delivered to the Adventist Community Services (ACS) station at the camporee. They included household cleaner; dishwashing soap; scrubber sponges; scrub brushes; cleaning towels; dust masks; kitchen, disposable, and work gloves; trash bags; laundry detergent; paper towels; disinfectant wipes; clothesline; clothespins; and insect repellent.

“We really appreciate the Pathfinder support for this great endeavor, as well as the ACS volunteers here from Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Texas, and Washington,” Sung Kwon, North American Division ACS executive director, said. “We could not have achieved this goal without everyone’s generosity.”

—*Tamara Michalenko Terry, Texas Conference*



Allegheny East Conference Pathfinders participate in the 2019 Oshkosh drum corps drill competition. *Stephen Baker*



Fireworks explode into the evening sky near the main stage at Oshkosh on opening night, August 13. *James Bokovoy*



Pathfinders gather near the main stage for church service on Sabbath morning, August 17, at the 2019 Chosen Camporee after walking or being shuttled from their campsites, most of which can be seen in this photo. *Anthony White*

### A Miracle in Kansas Comes to Oshkosh

Anna Coridan served as a student missionary in Nepal after her freshman year at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. After graduating in 2014, she began nursing work at AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in Kansas. She still had the dream of returning to Nepal. Then she met several Nepalese youth in Kansas. Realizing the real need among the refugees, she began her next mission adventure—in Kansas City. Through a series of events, God opened the door for her to move locations to an apartment complex in the city packed with refugees from Nepal.

Coridan made friends with Mani, a neighbor woman about her age, and a teen boy named Aadesh, who suggested they start a youth group. Recognizing that many refugees were lonely living in a place not of their culture where they don’t speak the language, she thought it was a good idea. Aadesh invited a few friends, and they invited others. Before long, Coridan was leading a large group of kids. They played soccer together and won a tournament. One of them, Bivek, came up with the name New Change for Youth (NC4Y).

The Iowa-Missouri Conference agreed to sponsor the NC4Y club to attend the West Lenexa Seventh-day Adventist Vacation Bible School (VBS) soccer camp. They bused 45 kids on a 45-minute drive from the apartment complex every evening for a week. After the event Coridan realized, *We can’t just walk away from these kids.*

Anne Wham, a retired youth director for Dakota Conference, helped Coridan get the club started.

That first year the club consisted of 36 Nepali kids. The next summer they were again invited to the West Lenexa VBS, and kids from many different countries jumped on the bus at Anna’s apartment complex. By the end of the week 70 kids were going to the VBS.

The NC4Y staff of nine started praying, and Coridan’s father suggested, “Maybe it’s time for an international club.”

But some of the new attendees spoke Swahili and Burmese, languages her staff did not know. Miraculously, a family from Kenya who spoke Swahili, and a family from Myanmar who spoke Burmese, joined the leadership team, giving them the very languages they needed.

Now the club has 54 Pathfinders from eight different countries: Nepal, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Syria, Thailand, Myanmar, and the U.S. Through another series of miracles and generous donors, the club made it to the 2019 Oshkosh camporee. —*Lori Peckham, Union College*

### World Records

Two attempts at world records at the camporee appear to have succeeded. The first was the largest scarf and slide (called neckerchief and woggle). Fashioned in the traditional yellow fabric, the master guide scarf measures 300 feet by 150 feet, and weighs about 800 pounds. Pathfinders in Texas created the scarf; the shield for the slide was designed by Arkansas-Louisiana Conference church members, and measures about 10 feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds. On August 16 the scarf and slide were hoisted up on a giant frame near the Chosen stage.

Attendees participated in creating the largest human cross shape. Each person wore a blue paper hoodie as they were funneled into the roped-off shape in front of the Chosen stage. The number to beat was 13,266, set in March 2011 in the Philippines. Each of the 13,309 participants stood in formation for five minutes as auditors using RFID (radio frequency identification) mats verified the number and drone images confirmed the shape. *Guinness World Records* adjudicator Michael Empric verified the results.





← Tristan Naumann, Pathfinder of the Bloomington Navigators from the Indiana Conference, smiles with his collection of pins in a “pin trading” tent on the campground. *Mylon Medley*

## “PUT A PIN IN IT”

Understanding the Pathfinder pin trading culture of the Chosen International Camporee.

BY MYLON MEDLEY

One of the few things that outnumbered the record-breaking attendance of more than 55,000 people at the 2019 Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee were what was viewed as the camporee’s social currency—collectible pins. Pathfinders collect the pins through purchasing or trading, but mostly through trading, which is greatly encouraged by Pathfinder leaders. One could barely walk a few feet on the main roads of the camping area before bumping into clusters of eager Pathfinders asking one another, “Are you trading?” Even if the Pathfinders couldn’t speak the same language, the language of pin trading was as universal as the Pathfinder song.

“It’s become a frenzy in the past few years,” said Armando Miranda, Pathfinder director for the North American Division, when speaking about the culture of collecting pins at camporee.

Most designs incorporated elements of the logo for the camporee, which illustrates the biblical story of David facing Goliath with his sling. The pins came in various shapes and sizes, and carried different values depending on the quality of the design, where they originated, and whether they were part of a collection.

According to Miranda, at least 100 different Seventh-day Adventist entities and ministries created pins for the camporee. Traditionally, each of the division’s union conferences and conferences create their

own design or collection. Local clubs also created individual pins or a collection of pins for their Pathfinders to trade or keep as souvenirs. In addition, ministries of the division, including Youth, Children’s, Stewardship, Ministerial, Adventist Community Services, Education, and Adventist Colleges Abroad, had pins available at their booths or sponsored honors classes.

Even the officers of the North American Division—Daniel R. Jackson, president; G. Alexander Bryant, executive secretary; and Randy Robinson, treasurer—offered a pin that focused on prayer as a way to get Pathfinders to connect with each other. They mingled with the Pathfinders throughout the campground as a part of their pin distribution.

### A Recipe for Confidence

The process of trading gave Pathfinders opportunities to make new friends and develop interpersonal skills.

“We live in a world in which we’re all disconnected from each other, even though we have devices to stay connected,” said Miranda. “The interaction with other people forces [Pathfinders] to look each other in the eyes, even if it’s just for bargaining.”

For many campers this was their first time participating in pin trading, but it did not take long for them to catch on to the culture. The “frenzy” was palpable. Pathfinders from all parts of the world seized every opportunity to build their collection.

“I’ve met people from China, California, Canada, and all sorts of other places,” said Tristan Naumann, Pathfinder of the Bloomington Navigators from the Indiana Conference. “At first I was kind of nervous to ask people to trade pins, but now it’s fun to me and I do it all the time.”

“The greatest thing about this is how it makes them more outgoing and builds their confidence,” said Lynn Todd, a Pathfinder director in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference who is also Naumann’s grandmother.

Once pins were exchanged, Pathfinders wore them on their uniform sashes, or an additional sash purchased just to hold the pins. They also placed them on hats or vests. Some used small blankets or pieces of cardboard to house their pins. Others kept the pins in customized booklets or binders.

“By collecting pins, the Pathfinders are collecting memories,” said Miranda.

### Validating the Experience

Pins first appeared at camporees in the early 1990s. The production and subsequent trading of the pins have grown exponentially ever since. In 2014, a Pin Trading Honor was developed to help Pathfinders understanding the principles that should govern the trading process in an effort to help them grow spiritually.

“The honor explains the culture. It gives Pathfinders and staff an idea of

“By collecting pins, Pathfinders are collecting memories.”

how to approach pin trading,” said Miranda. “Pathfinders learn how to measure the value of a pin, and how to have a good interaction. The honor is also designed to help them understand the community aspect of exchanging something of value. It’s not just about taking a pin because you like it. It’s a partnership.”

In Skill Level 1 for the Pin Trading Honor, Pathfinders get a deeper understanding of pin placement, where they can trade pins, and the “three F’s of pin trading etiquette”: fun, fair, and friendly—the principles Pathfinders are encouraged to follow while trading.

In Skill Level 2, or Pin Trading, Advanced, Pathfinders learn the factors that affect the cost and value of a pin, the different types of pins, and the various ways pins can be accessorized or embellished with elements such as blinkers, bobbleheads, spinners, and sliders. Pathfinders are also encouraged to share the “fun, fair, friendly” pin trading etiquette with new traders.

“We want them to have fun, but we don’t want them to lose sight of the true value of trading, which is gaining a richer camporee experience by getting to know each other,” said Miranda.

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

← Matthew Mompremier, Pathfinder of the North Naples Sunblazers from the Florida Conference, poses with his sash of pins. He came to the camporee with only four pins, but built his collection through trading. *Mylon Medley*

↓ Daniel R. Jackson, president of the North American Division, passes out pins to a group of excited Pathfinders looking to build their collections. *Luis Sanchez*





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BY ELIZABETH VIERA TALBOT

# The Gospel to the Poor

**I**t must be lonely in prison. In time the sense of being trapped becomes overwhelming. Not knowing what the future holds is disheartening. You are left in the dark, waiting for something, for someone to bring a word of encouragement, a glimmer of hope. But the wait is so impossibly long . . .

Kenneth, a penitentiary inmate, recently started corresponding with the Jesus 101 ministry. "I was losing hope and wanted to end my life," he wrote, "but my friend sent me a copy of your book *I Will Give You Rest*. I was so lonely and hurting for causing so much pain in my life over doing drugs . . . , but after reading your book I told myself, *Life can be so good with Jesus Christ*. I am alive in prison because of your book and God's amazing grace! . . . May God bless you and continue to give you inspiration to do His will in reaching the poor in spirit with the gospel."

Kenneth's letters touched my heart, and his words, *reaching the poor in spirit with the gospel*, caught my attention. In the ancient world at the time of war the word "gospel" (*euangelion*) was used to announce to the inhabitants of a city the good news of victory (see Isa. 52:7 in the Septuagint). Their king had been victorious on their behalf on the battlefield, and now they were free! This is where the Gospel writers and Paul got the word to explain the good news of Jesus Christ.

But who are the poor that Jesus declared to be the recipients of this gospel, this good news (see Luke 4:18, 19; Isa. 61:1, 2)? Those who are incarcerated? The ones addicted? The depressed and destitute?

The truth is that all of us are poor, blind, and brokenhearted. When we realize our need for a Savior, we come to understand that we are the poor who have nothing to offer to God other than our great need. He meets us right in our weakness and destitute condition, offering us the good news that Jesus, through His perfect life and death, has done for us what we could not have done for ourselves. Furthermore, having received the gospel, we are like the lepers in the Old Testament story (2 Kings 7:3-11), who in utter poverty found an abundance of food and could not keep the good news to themselves. We have to share it! Not because we are

better than others, but because in our poverty we were given what we did not and could not possess.

Kenneth finally realized that he actually was one of the blessed poor. He wrote: "I was missing something my whole life. I did not find what my heart was looking for until I came to prison, and I am thankful for being locked up behind these walls. I now have something amazing on the inside of my heart. How great is God!"

When we are in the most adverse circumstances, we are most likely to make that incredible discovery that, while we are the poor in spirit, we have all the riches of heaven through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

You may not find yourself in jail today (or maybe you actually do), but you may feel that you are imprisoned by circumstances and are running out of hope. Remember that the gospel of Jesus is for *the poor*, for you and me. No matter how dark our past and seemingly hopeless our situation, Jesus won the battle on our behalf! May you rest in His assurance of salvation!

*Kenneth will be released from prison in February 2020. Until then he would like to receive encouraging letters. If you are interested in getting his address, contact office@Jesus101.tv.*

*Elizabeth Viera Talbot, Ph.D., is speaker/director of the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute (www.Jesus101.tv), a media ministry of the North American Division.*

In our poverty we were given what we could not possess.



# NAD NEWS BRIEFS



← Rachel Scribner, production coordinator of the NAD project documentary, reports on the film project that will address the uncertainties that college students face once they graduate. *Keila Trejo*

## MEDIA CENTERS COLLABORATE IN INTERNATIONAL CROSS-MEDIA PROJECT

A group of media professionals from Seventh-day Adventist Church world divisions met on July 9-10, 2019, to work on an international cross-media project that will focus on bringing hope to anyone facing uncertainty in their lives. The select group from different Adventist media centers spent time brainstorming, praying, and shaping the creative project during two days of meetings at the Inter-American Division (IAD) headquarters in Miami, Florida.

Part of the network project will include stories; a short film produced by the South American Division; a short documentary film about the uncertainty students face, by the North American Division (NAD); a book on facing uncertainty, coordinated by Norel Iacob, editor

of *Signs of the Times* magazine of Romania; and a series of campaign spots for television and social media platforms by the IAD.

During the meetings, project team members created a time line for the project, as well as marketing and distribution strategies and ways of increasing communication among the collaborators to make the project a reality.

“This is incredibly exciting that we can come together as partners to accomplish something that individually we could not do, using the medium of film and print to connect with an audience that has neglected us in the past,” said Julio Muñoz, associate communication director for the NAD, and film coordinator for the NAD project documentary.

—*Libna Stevens, Inter-American Division*

## NAD Honors Promotion of an Adventist Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries of the North American Division recognized Chaplain John Elliott of the United States Air Force for his recent promotion to colonel on July 3, 2019. He is the third Adventist Air Force chaplain to achieve the rank (the first was David Buttrick, who was promoted in 2017; the second was Andrew Pak, who was promoted in 2018).

“Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is proud of our chaplains who have milestone events,” said Paul Anderson, director/endorser of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, during a ceremony at the division’s headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. “We have a Flame Award we present to military chaplains when they achieve the rank of colonel or upon their retirement. . . . Chaplain Elliott is not retiring. In fact, he’s at an apex of his career.”

“It’s a privilege to be in ministry, serve our country, and be a minister for those who serve our country,” said Elliott upon accepting the award.

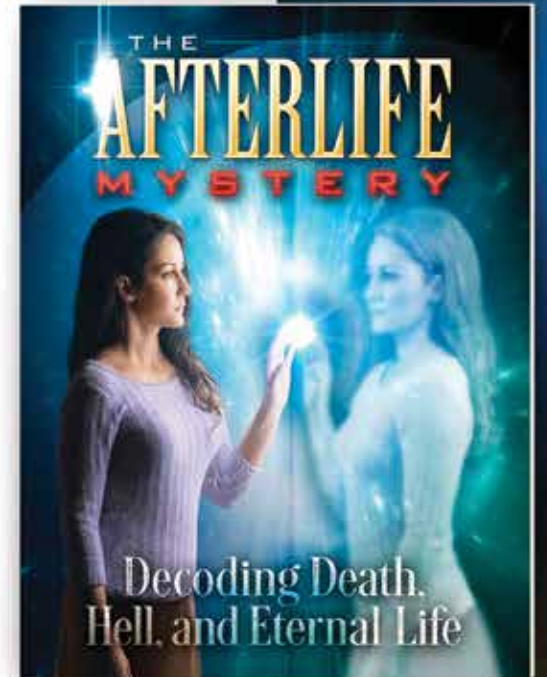
—*Mylon Medley, NAD Communication*

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CREATION Health is now

**CREATION Life**

In the search for balance and restoration, we turn to the healing ministry of Christ as our example. As we walk the path to wholeness, **CREATION Life** principles serve as our guide. And that path to wholeness is marked for us all by the biblical principles of **Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition**. Life-affirming transformation happens when we dwell in the presence of God.