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# Adventist Journey

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## My Journey

I’m good at getting things done and helping people. I’m much more comfortable doing that than, say, sitting through a Bible study. I think getting involved in that way, in doing mission . . . it’s a way to get people to stay at church to be part of building relationships. Helping others keeps us grounded in the church. We are feeding people every single week, and it’s definitely at the core of our mission.

Visit [nadadventist.org/ajdanabohm](http://nadadventist.org/ajdanabohm) for more of Bohm’s story.

**DANA BOHM,**  
*Milwaukee Central Adventist church’s  
human concerns ministry co-director*



Cover photo by Art Brando

**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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# Hidden Figures:

## Stories of Adventist Women

BY MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

**T**his past year saw the creation of a new Pathfinder honor. My own daughter, along with two of her friends, were the initial catalyst to beta-test and help develop the requirements. As we did so, it became an opportunity to look at little-known or even unknown stories of early Adventist women. Women have always composed the majority of Christian churches, as well as the majority of Adventist members in our church's past. In the process, I either proposed or wrote articles for the new online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*. Below are a few highlights from some of these little-known stories.

### Phebe Marietta Lamson (1824-1883)

**A**pioneer Adventist physician and educator, Phebe was the first female Adventist physician. Born in 1824, she appears to have converted to Adventism while her family lived in the Rochester, New York, area in the 1850s. By 1855 she took her ailing father to Dr. James C. Jackson's "Our Home on the Hillside" in nearby Dansville, where she likely learned more about hydropathic medicine. A strong early supporter of Ellen White's prophetic ministry, Lamson became

an early advocate within Adventism for health reform. When the Health Reform Institute opened in 1866, she joined Dr. Horatio S. Lay as the first two physicians of the first nascent Adventist health institution. During the winter of 1867-1868 she attended R. T. Trall's Hygeio-Therapeutic College in New Jersey to obtain a medical degree, the first Adventist woman to do so, and among the earliest in the country. Upon completion, Lamson returned to the Health Reform Institute in Battle Creek, Michigan, where she brought stability for the fledgling institution. As several others came and left, she was an innovator who advocated for various natural remedies and treatments.

Lamson saw the potential of doing evangelism through health education, and several early patients attributed their conversion to her kind, attentive, and spiritual treatment. And with her modest income she donated additional funds to help support various church projects, such as the Dime Tabernacle and tract and missionary outreach. Lamson even donated to J. N. Andrews as the denomination's first official missionary. In 1876 she welcomed the young Dr. J. H. Kellogg (who later became medical director) and mentored him as the institution continued to grow and change. Tragically, in July 1883, while Lamson was on vacation visiting family, she fell ill and died in western New York. Her last words, quoting from Isaiah 26:4, celebrated God's "everlasting strength." Deeply loved and admired, a memorial service was held at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and Kellogg hung a life-size portrait of Lamson on the third floor of the Battle Creek Sanitarium.



Phebe Marietta Lamson  
Photo from the James Nix  
Collection, Ellen G. White Estate,  
General Conference

## Minnie Sype (1869-1956)

One of the most remarkable evangelists in Adventist history is Marinda “Minnie” Day. When she was a young girl, her mother encouraged her to pursue her education, and a schoolteacher who read a chapter of the Bible each day at school made a deep impression upon her. At age 12 she gave her life to God and became a Disciples of Christ minister. The first Adventist she met was Logan Purdy Sype (1856-1925), whom she married in 1889. At the time she was teaching public school, and after further Bible study, she joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Sype gave Bible studies and distributed literature when her husband would take a load of grain to town. She’d walk ahead selling copies of *Signs of the Times*, catching a ride between homes. The couple had three children, and as they raised their family with the usual farm chores, they continued active Bible work. At one point during a health crisis Sype went for treatment at the Nebraska Sanitarium, where she also came into contact with teachers at Union College. This helped her in being able to share her faith. Upon her return, the family moved to the Higby mining camp in Wyoming. Sype taught public school and Sunday school, since there was no Adventist church, and she was looking for ways to share her faith. The couple saved up enough money that by the next summer their family could start over by buying a farm in the Oklahoma territory.

Tragically, extreme heat wiped out their dream to start over. Meanwhile she used this opportunity to share her faith with other poor struggling farm families around them. As interest grew, she called the conference president to ask for help to organize a group of believers. In response, Sype received a letter of appreciation and a check for \$25 from the conference, never having entertained the thought about being paid for her ministry. The next spring G. H. Haffner offered to employ her officially as an evangelist. Despite what she viewed as “mountains of opposition” and “adverse public opinion” she heeded what she felt was the call of God. At the age of 32 she began full-time preaching ministry. Subsequent reports highlighted her successful ministry of sharing her faith and raising up groups of believers. By 1902 she received a ministerial license from the Oklahoma Conference, the first woman with such a license in the Southwestern Union. She would go on, even into retirement, sharing her love for Jesus with others.



Left: Minnie Sype and her family. Above: a portrait of Minnie Sype. Photos from the book *Life Sketches and Experiences in Missionary Work*, by Minnie Sype, Seminary Press: Hutchinson, Minnesota

“Women have always composed the majority of Christian churches, as well as the majority of Adventist members in our church’s past.”

## Rachel “Anna” Knight (1874-1972)

**E**arly African American missionary, colporteur, educator, Bible worker and administrator, Rachel “Anna” Knight, was born in Mississippi. Her father, Newton Knight, fought in the Civil War. Her mother, who was of mixed ancestry, raised Anna along with her siblings, and other relatives, in a small, overcrowded home. Through hard work they were able to exhibit slow but steady upward mobility.

Willing to learn, Knight was barred from attending the local school. She learned to read and write by bartering for books from her White cousins who did attend the same school. Slowly she taught herself to read. A colporteur who sold subscriptions to *Home and Fireside* prompted Anna to beg her mother the \$1 for a subscription. In 1891 she received a bundle of Adventist literature, which ultimately led to her conversion. Knight tried to obtain an education, at the closest Adventist school, in Graysville, Tennessee, where she was baptized in December 1892, but again her racial background prevented her from attending classes. She lived with the school matron and returned home. She was subsequently able to attend school at Mount Vernon Academy, and then went with two missionary nurses to the Battle Creek Sanitarium. From here she was able to return to Mississippi, where she opened a one-room mission school not far from her home.

By 1901 Knight served as a delegate at the 1901 General Conference Session that resulted in a reorganization of the church for mission. Afterward she was asked to sail for Calcutta, India, becoming first African American female missionary, a first for any missionary society. She set out to work in the Calcutta Sanitarium, and soon went to work at a nearby orphanage and dispensary. Her efforts over the next six years would expand across a number of cities before returning home, where she resumed her work as a schoolteacher. Through the remainder of her life Knight would remain an influential church worker across the American South. As a social activist, she partnered with the YWCA and other organizations to provide health care and education, as she continued to share her faith. By 1925 she took on a more administrative role and by 1945 she had 34 schools under her supervision across the American South. To the end of her life, she remained an important exemplar, sharing her faith with others.



Rachel "Anna" Knight  
Photo from the General  
Conference Archives

## Learning More

**W**ould you like to learn about more stories about the contributions of women in Adventist history? This coming October the NAD Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research will hold the first annual research conference featuring a wide plethora of researchers who will be sharing many of these stories. The conference will take place on the campus of Washington Adventist University from October 12 to 14, 2023. Some of the featured keynote speakers will include Ella Simmons, former vice president of the General Conference; Anneke Stasson, author of the book *Women in the Mission of the Church*; Heidi Olson Campbell, women's historian and host of the new podcast *Women in Adventist History*; and Laura Vance, author and historian. Those who participate in the conference will be able to hear a variety of papers featuring the many varied contributions of women in Adventist history. From women who served as missionaries, to evangelists and Bible workers, to educators and physicians, these stories will inspire participants with how God has and continues to lead women to share the Adventist message.

The conference will begin on Thursday evening with a special address by NAD president G. Alexander Bryant,

and continue all day Friday and Sabbath with a series of devotionals, papers, and plenary sessions. Friday evening will feature Ann Roda, vice president of Adventist HealthCare for Mission Integration. On Friday morning Kevin Burton, director of the Center for Adventist Research, will share about Millerite women; and Sabbath morning will feature a devotional by Sandy Roberts, executive secretary of the Pacific Union and a discussion by Adventist women leaders with Celeste Ryan Blyden, Columbia Union executive secretary. Sabbath afternoon will include a tour of area Adventist heritage sites, celebrating the contributions of local Adventist women near the denomination's main headquarters for most of the twentieth century in Takoma Park. Other inspiration presentations and papers, along with concluding thoughts by NAD Women's Ministries director DeeAnn Bragraw, will help to wrap up the event.

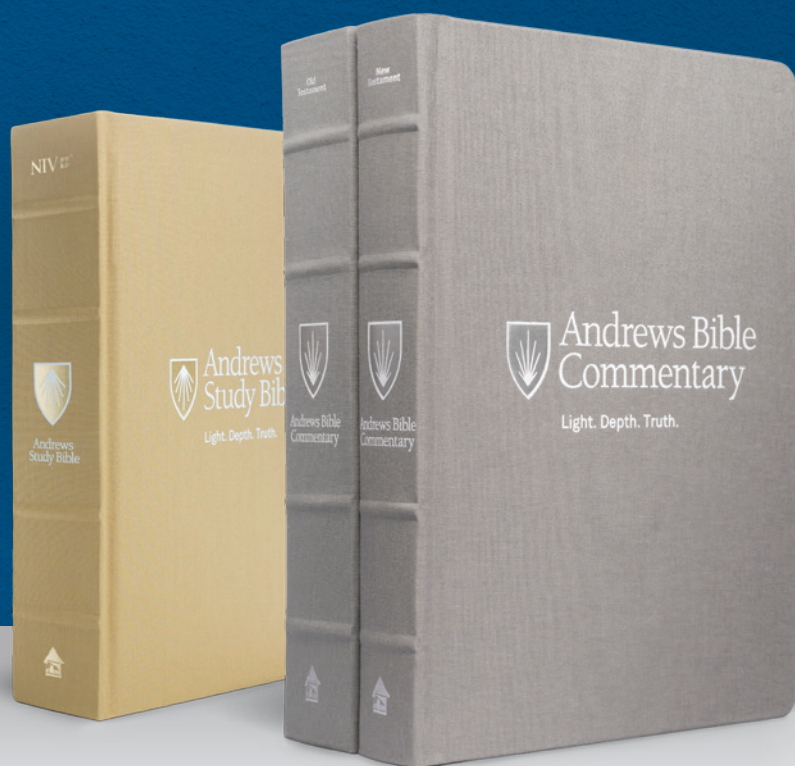
Visit [adventsource.org/events/women-in-seventh-day-adventist-history-conference-2023-656](https://adventsource.org/events/women-in-seventh-day-adventist-history-conference-2023-656) to register for the conference.

*Michael W. Campbell is director of the North American Division Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.*



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# “POWER TO HEAL” HEALTH SUMMIT INSPIRES ATTENDEES TO EMULATE JESUS’ HEALING MINISTRY

BY CHRISTELLE AGBOKA

**F**rom April 2 to 8, 2023, more than 150 attendees were inspired to emulate Jesus’ healing ministry at the North American Division’s (NAD) “Power to Heal” Health Summit in Lexington, Kentucky. The summit’s theme came from Luke 5:17: “And the power of the Lord was present to heal them” (KJV).

Angeline Brauer, NAD Health Ministries director and summit organizer, explained: “Where Jesus is [present], His power to heal is [also] present. Christ is waiting to pour out His healing power upon us, His people, and through us to the communities around us.”

She also referred to Luke 5:16, where Jesus withdrew for prayer because of the crowds seeking healing. Accordingly, the summit offered a 24-hour prayer room and daily prayer sessions.

Because of COVID-19 the summit was delayed for three years. After years of virtual conferences, participants valued the in-person event’s collegial atmosphere. Laura Harris, Doctor of Natural Medicine and founder of Wellspring Health Ministries, said, “It’s a blessing to fellowship with so many like-minded individuals. It doesn’t matter [where] you sit or whom you talk to; you’ll have a good conversation.”

## Educational Opportunities Abundant at “Power to Heal”

The summit offered several professional development opportunities, including leadership training and

wide-ranging health and wellness courses. Seminars encompassed addiction recovery, health coaching, twenty-first-century sanitariums, depression recovery, nutrition, and youth and young adult ministry. There was a separate track for faith community nurses—“trained nurses who serve a church or congregation to improve the health of its members.” Continuing education or continuing medical education credits were also available.

Jennifer Althea, nurse practitioner and new health ministries leader at her church, said, “I’m here to learn all I can, . . . and I’ve learned so much. I wish everyone elected to this position could come and get this education.”

## Plenaries, “Health-stravaganza,” and Pickleball Enhance Participants’ Toolkit

The summit also featured plenaries on diverse health topics (e.g., toxins in the home, the role of hemorheology—blood flow—in health and disease, children and emotional health), “health-stravaganza,” a live health fair demonstration, and a 30-minute pickleball clinic.

“Health-stravaganza,” based on the NEWSTART lifestyle program, introduces attendees to health concepts, promotes follow-up courses, and facilitates friendship evangelism. The demo included plant-based food samples, an anti-stress chair massage, a peak flow test, a health age assessment, and a kids’ section, also founded on NEWSTART.



← On the final day of the NAD's 2023 "Power to Heal" health summit, Wendy Eberhardt, NAD vice president for ministries, urged attendees to unleash Jesus' power to heal by becoming channels of light in a dark world. *Pieter Damsteegt*

Additionally, participants learned about pickleball from Ernie Medina, Jr., Loma Linda University School of Public Health professor and "pickleball evangelist." Pickleball is an easy, all-ages sport combining elements of tennis, table tennis, and badminton. It requires only a net, paddles, boards, and a small space such as a parking lot to start.

"Pickleball is a door opener to get to know people," Medina said. He offered numerous examples of non-Adventists joining church pickleball clubs, then deciding to attend church services, engage in Bible studies, and get baptized.

Anthony Medley, Allegheny East Conference's Health Ministries director, seized the opportunity to play pickleball during Tuesday's clinic. "I really appreciated the summit's wholistic approach, [that] it didn't just have the intellectual; [it also] had a physical component," he said.

### Attendees Celebrated and Anointed to Serve

On Friday evening Jennifer LaMountain, development director at Faith for Today and international Christian recording artist, imparted wisdom from her decades of ministry, including embracing God's call. "Whatever God has placed in your hands, accept it. Take courage and know He walks [with us] every step of the way."

LaMountain's message culminated in a powerful performance of her song "No More Night," with Claudia Ramirez-Treyer, registered nurse and singer, who provided ministry in music that weekend alongside her husband, pianist Roy Treyer.

Next, the 15+ pastors at the summit anointed participants' hands with oil and prayed over them, then prayed together. And during a commissioning service, individuals who'd completed courses received certificates of attendance and specially designed glass plaques. Brauer said, "The road ahead will not be easy. But go forward knowing that God has prepared you and will always be with you. Congratulations, class of April 2023!"

### Channels of Light to the World

In the closing Sabbath service, Wendy Eberhardt, NAD vice president for ministries, shared an experience from her time as Arkansas Conference's Youth Ministries and camp director. One evening she rushed back to camp after hearing the frightened voice of a girls counselor on the radio. She learned that after falling asleep, Abby, a camper, had begun writhing in bed, grabbing at her throat, and speaking in an eerie voice.

Outside the cabin, amid a terrified huddle, Eberhardt prayed for God to chase out the devil and put a ring of protective angels around the camp. Once Abby was summoned, she



↑ A highlight of the North American Division's 2023 "Power to Heal" health summit was the "Health-stravaganza," a live demo of a health fair based on the NEWSTART Lifestyle Program. One of its booths was an anti-stress massage chair. *Paola Mora Zepeda*

told her to call on Jesus' name when afraid, and He'd come instantly.

Later Eberhardt learned that Abby had asked the assistant counselor who'd stayed with her—"Who was your friend standing next to you dressed in white?" and "What was the flash of light outside surrounding Pastor Wendy and the counselors as they were praying?" This life-changing experience led Abby, who had no prior exposure to Christianity, to give her life to Christ and get baptized at camp.

Eberhardt concluded, "When Jesus calls us into ministry, He calls us to be channels of light, messengers of the Son of God into the world. When we say yes to God, He [will use] our passion for Him. Then He will draw all men unto Him, and the power to heal will be unleashed."

*Christelle Agboka is an assistant director for North American Division communication.*

← The NAD 2023 "Power to Heal" health summit offered several professional development opportunities. On Friday, April 7, 2023, individuals who had completed courses during the week were recognized with certificates and specially designed glass plaques. *Pieter Damsteegt*



# NAD NEWS BRIEFS

Photo provided by Southwestern Adventist University



## Southwestern Adventist University to Receive More Than \$2.7 Million Grant for Nursing Education Program

**S**outhwestern Adventist University (SWAU) is the proud recipient of Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans Program (PPO-HA) Title V Part B grant. During the next five years SWAU will receive more than \$2.7 million to develop a Master of Science in Nursing Education program with state-of-the-art wrap-around student success services. The generous grant will not only provide funding to establish the scholarships for the first cohorts of nursing educators, but also establish a \$250,000 Nursing Educator Endowment to support nursing educators for generations to come.

The proposed program is specifically designed to prepare educators for post-secondary teaching positions in community colleges and universities, offering nursing programs across the nation and particularly in the southern region of the country, where there is a significant need for nurse educators and a striking disparity between the demographics of the population and the demographics of current nursing faculty.

“We are excited about this opportunity to expand what we offer and provide this education program through SWAU,” shared project director Terri Gibson. We know that patients need compassionate nurses, and quality educators and programs are needed to make this key nurse role more available.”

—Southwestern Adventist University News



Photo provided by Pacific Union College

## Pacific Union College Awarded Half Million Dollar Grant to Expand Nursing Training

**T**he Pacific Union College (PUC) School of Nursing has received a \$540,000 grant from California’s Department of Healthcare Access and Information (HCAI), funding that will help address the statewide nursing shortage by expanding training opportunities.

Chair of Nursing and Health Sciences Kimberly Dunker said PUC will use the grant to ensure nursing student success by funding scholarships and providing support through tutoring. It will also be used to purchase high-fidelity simulation technology, along with faculty support, development, and simulation training.

“Expanding our simulation program allows us to meet mandatory clinical requirements while still meeting student outcomes. This ensures compliance with minimum clinical hours in the case of a pandemic, fire evacuation, or other disaster,” Dunker said. “It also may allow us to expand our RN enrollment in the future.”

—Laura Gang, Pacific Union College

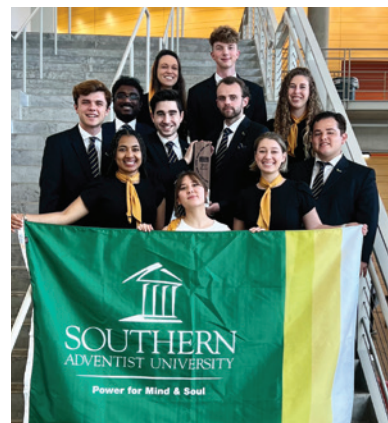
## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY ENACTUS TEAM PLACES THIRD IN TOP TIER OF NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Enactus chapter at Southern Adventist University won third place at the 2023 Enactus United States National Exposition, ranking in the elite 1 percent of more than 300 teams in the country. This marks the second time Southern's student team, which is housed in the School of Business, has advanced through the competition to the final round with the top four U.S. schools.

Junior management major Roman Johnson, Southern's chapter president, described the expo as "an incredible experience. My team and I had the opportunity to grow in our commitment to Christ-centered service through our projects this past year and then showcase His work through our team in the competition."

Along with creating a video, the Southern team prepared an annual report detailing all five of their current projects with statistics and finances to share with judges. The presentation focused on Akuna Soap Industry's production of natural, affordable soap that equips women and youth in Zambia to open their own businesses and BringIt's empowerment of student entrepreneurs. Other Chattanooga-based projects include: Tomorrowpreneurs's focus on inspiring underserved children with business knowledge and confidence; HIRE's job network and training targeting unsheltered individuals; and Illuminate Marketing's promotion assistance for struggling small businesses.

—Tina Smith, Southern Adventist University



↑ Southern Adventist University Enactus team poses for a photo after placing third nationally in 2023 national exposition. Photo provided by Southern Adventist University



↑ Walla Walla University Enactus Club team poses with the Community Impact Prize they earned this spring for their energy innovation project Bionova, a biogas production process. Photo provided by Walla Walla University

## Walla Walla University Enactus Club Earns Prize for Energy Innovation Project

This spring Walla Walla University's Enactus Club entered the Alaska Airlines 2023 Environmental Innovation Challenge alongside 20 other teams, and took home the \$5,000 Community Impact Prize for their project on energy innovation.

The team of five students is developing Bionova, a biogas production process to provide a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to wood and charcoal for cooking fuel. Nyasha Pazvakwambwa, a junior accounting and finance major, explained it was Zimbabwe's need for a cost-efficient and environmentally friendly energy source that served as the motivation for the project. "We aim to utilize waste from animals to create a network of bioreactors producing biogas in nylon-coated bags and distribute it to propane tanks for local use in cooking stoves and generators," says Pazvakwambwa.

The Community Impact Prize recognized the project's priority of justice while providing an innovative way to improve community resilience in the face of climate change. Elizabeth Hernandez, a junior business major, said the \$5,000 of prize money will go toward bringing the project to life.

—Kayla Hastings, Walla Walla University Relations student writer

## Union College Launching Three New Graduate Programs

Union College is significantly expanding its graduate offerings with three new master's degrees. Two of the new degrees, a Master of Public Health and a Master of Science in Leadership, will begin in August 2023, while the Master of Occupational Therapy Program will launch in 2024.

"These new degrees signal a broadening of Union College's scope as we continually strive to add value for our current students and anyone seeking additional higher education to advance their careers," said Vinita Sauder, Union College president. "The programs build on Union's strengths and continue our legacy of training top leaders in health care, the nonprofit sector, and many other fields."

These three programs will significantly expand Union's graduate offerings. Since 2008 the Master of Physician Assistant studies has been the college's lone master's degree. The 33-month program currently graduates approximately 30 students per year into a field consistently ranked one of the best careers by *Forbes* magazine and other publications.

—Ryan Teller, Union College Integrated Marketing Communications

# Mariah

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for her work and loves it. But she's feeling the urge to do something more tangible to impact the world around her. Like her investments, she wants to spread her donation to multiple entities to see which can do the most with her funds. She wants to learn how to navigate the tax benefits and connect with the right organizations to make the most of this opportunity.



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BY RANDY ROBINSON

# Come Out Into the Open

**W**hen my sons Jason and Brandon were little, we would occasionally play hide-and-seek. It didn't matter where we were—in the house, in the yard, or on vacation somewhere—there were always enough hiding places to make it fun. I would count to 10 slowly with eyes closed, and the kids would scamper around attempting to find some item large enough to conceal them from sight. Finally, when I hit the count of 10, I would call out, "Ready or not, here I come!" I'd open my eyes and usually within a few seconds spot where each of them was hiding. In their minds, out of sight was out of mind. *If I am under the blanket in the middle of the room, they reasoned, Dad won't see me, so this is a great hiding place!*

Of course, I did what dads do. I would prolong the "hunt," saying out loud, "Now, where could they be?" I'd open cupboards, look around corners, and make a spectacle of it, until finally I would grab the little bundle in the middle of the room with a resounding "Gotcha," and a long round of giggling would ensue.

"Daddy, how did you find me?" they would ask.

With a glimmer in my eye I would answer, "Well, daddies just know where to look."

I have often thought of that when I consider my relationship with God, but I have thought of it in a different way. In my "game" with God I have wandered off somewhere, and I'm afraid my hiding technique is so good that I am out of His reach. My sin is so egregious that He has simply abandoned me to the things I think obstruct me from His sight. Convinced that I have gone beyond God's search parameters and that He has abandoned the search, I am lonely and afraid.

As a lifelong Christian and worker in the church, I know that sounds a little fatalistic and maybe exposes an immature faith. But I don't think I am alone. Somehow even those of us who have enjoyed long fellowship with the church and yes, with God, occasionally feel abandoned, unheard, and out of the reach of our

heavenly Father. Circumstances get hold of us, and we revert to a place of self-pity and hopelessness.

I am convinced that God knew this propensity would show up in failing humanity, and provided assurances in His Word. He did not use any equivocating language. He did not hedge or dodge. He said straight out, "I will *never* leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5, NKJV). He assures me that there is *nothing* that can separate me from His love (see Romans 8:38, 39). He promised that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13, NKJV). He assured us that "*whoever* believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, NKJV). And if that is not enough, He says that when I confess my sins, He is faithful and just to forgive my sins and cleanse me from *all* unrighteousness (see 1 John 1:9).

This is not a game to God. He is serious about assuring me that I am His. I have nothing to fear as I depend on and trust in Him.

When playing hide-and-seek with my kids, I never had to say "Olly olly oxen free," a phrase of debated origin associated with the game when players could not be found. This phrase is used to indicate that players who are hiding can come out into the open without losing the game.

God's promises go further and give sinners an invitation to come into the open because He has won the contest for us. Taking some liberty with the phrase, we can come out into the open with assurance when God calls out to us, "Olly olly God sets free." And when Jesus sets us free, we are free indeed!

God gives sinners an invitation to come into the open because He has won the contest for us.

*Randy Robinson is treasurer for the North American Division.*

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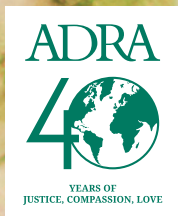
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