

This is an official e-publication of the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

News and Information from the North American Division

# NEWSPOINTS

December 13, 2023



**At the 2023 North American Division Women's Clergy Retreat, approximately 200 of the division's 350 women clergy serving as pastors, chaplains, administrators, professors, and departmental leaders converged upon the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center in Maryland from Oct. 9-12, for a time of refreshing, equipping, and connection. [MORE](#)**



**The NAD Planned Giving and Trust Services ministry recently celebrated the successful conclusion of its largest cohort in years. The 13-week certification program, held at the Arizona Conference from Nov. 28 to 30, brought together a record-breaking cohort of 40 individuals. [MORE](#)**



**AdventHealth's "week of caring," celebrated Nov. 6-10, included team members from** throughout Florida. All told, 1,220 team members volunteered nearly 2,500 hours to lend a hand to 76 community partners. "With tremendous team member support over the years, our annual service opportunity has grown into a weeklong service event," says Courtney Snyder, community engagement manager for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division. [MORE](#)



**While it's natural to mark time by the tragedies and traumas that have marred our lives, we also** mark time through triumphs. Wedding days, births, new homes, graduations, new jobs . . . these are some of the points —benchmarks— that give us measures of hope, joy. The sad reality for many of us is that those happy moments aren't often equal benchmarks in this sinful world. The traumatic seems to win out. But then I think of Jesus and how He has created the best markers to live by. [READ MORE](#)

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## ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

[Belen Seventh-Day Adventist Church Breaks Ground \(N.M.\)](#)

[Adventhealth West Florida Division Hospitals Honored Again With Top Hospital Awards by the Leapfrog Group \(Fla.\)](#)

[Adventhealth Parker Teams up With Newday Adventist Church to Help 200 Families Buy Gifts \(Colo.\)](#)

[Clearlake City Council Approves Property Sale to Adventist Health Clear Lake for New Clinic \(Calif.\)](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES



**Seeking the ideal Christmas gift? Discover a wide range of merchandise at [DiscoveryMountain.com/store](https://www.discoverymountain.com/store), featuring adventure-ready notebooks and vibrant music CDs that breathe life into the stories. Immerse yourself in this collection and bring the enchantment of Discovery Mountain to your loved one this holiday season!**



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**In the face of tragedy, how do you live with suffering and shattered dreams?** Do you want to know the secret of overcoming your pain? This week's guest on [Lifestyle](https://www.lifetalk.net/lifestyle), Joni Eareckson Tada has been sharing this secret to communities around the world and has impacted thousands of families by teaching others how to push through chronic pain in order to inspire and serve others. She is joined by her husband, Ken Tada, they will share about her remarkable life and ministry. [WATCH IT HERE!](https://www.lifetalk.net/lifestyle)

**If you're a dad or know someone who is, you**



## don't want to miss this episode of

the [Lifestyle.org Podcast](#)! Join host Roy Ice and author J. Scott Reed as they dive into Reed's latest book, [The Power of a Dad](#). Discover the impact of fatherhood and why it matters for our children. Learn about his newest venture co-leading a ministry in Los Angeles that focuses on bringing sons and daughters in the entertainment industry together to create a sense of belonging and support. [WATCH IT HERE!](#)



## Get Ready for [The Bible Lab](#) Global Launch on YouTube! Join the global conversation about

the character of God, starting Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m. PT. Share your thoughts live, connect your loved ones, and be part of something groundbreaking. Your voice matters. Be there when the world tunes in! Beginning Dec. 9, a direct link to the live stream will be at the top of The Bible Lab's homepage. [WATCH IT HERE!](#) The Bible Lab is a ministry of [Faith For Today](#).



CONNECTING YOU WITH  
THE GOD OF **LOVE**

**Exciting news for social media users!** If you've ever wanted to share your faith in practical and meaningful ways on social media, but weren't sure how to do it effectively, check out the NAD resources [HERE](#). It's not just about sharing faith online; it's about fostering faith-based communities. The NAD training resources are the place to help you become a successful digital disciple.

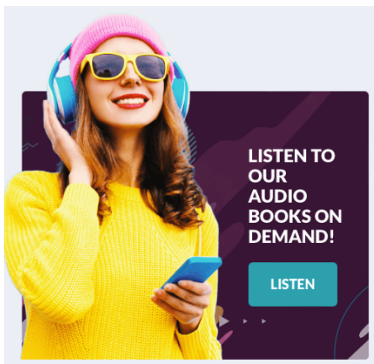


## View the 2018-2023 NAD Adventist Education Progress Report by clicking [HERE](#).

The purpose of this report is to describe the status of education in the North American Division, including early childhood through higher education programs. View the full report at [this link](#).



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*Surprised by Love*, *Radical Discipleship*, *Revelation: The Fifth Gospel*, and more titles by Dr. Elizabeth Talbot.



## Breath of Life: Fresh Start Sundays now airing on LifeTalk Radio!

Four new inspirational programs have been added to the line up from Breath of Life Ministries. The first and third Sundays of the month will feature *Scripture Lab* hosted by Pastor Debleaire Snell, speaker/director for Breath of Life. On the second Sunday of the month listen to *Point of View*, a program on marriage and family life, hosted by Snell and his wife, Gianna. The program on the fourth Sunday is called *Vision Sunday*, hosted by Snell and Kirk Nugent. On months with a fifth Sunday, Pastor Snell will host a program focusing on lifestyle and well-being called *Healthier U*. For a complete LifeTalk program schedule for your time zone visit: [lifetalk.net/program-schedule](http://lifetalk.net/program-schedule)



## [Christian Record Services](#) is a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North

America serving people of all faiths and walks of life who are blind worldwide. Churches, individuals, and businesses provide support for services. All who are legally blind or have physical impairments that prevent them from holding reading material or focusing on ink print are eligible for these free services: [Full-Vision Books](#); [Gift Bibles](#) and [Study Guides](#); [Naomi Chapman Turner Library for the Blind](#); [National Camps for Blind Children \(NCBC\)](#); [Subscription Magazines](#); and [Zoo Buds](#). Service may vary by region due to contractual agreements.

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## December

- 02 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 09 [Adventist Community Services](#)
- 16 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 23 [Local Conference Advance](#)
- 30 [Union Designated](#)

[Camp Meeting  
Calendar](#)

[Adventist Mission](#)

## January

- 06 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 13 [Religious Liberty](#)
- 20 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 27 [Local Conference Advance](#)

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# ADVENTIST JOURNEY



**Cover:** Jennifer Tomita, early childhood education director at the Maui Adventist Pre-Elementary School in Kahului, Hawaii

**Feature:** "Divine Genius: Funding the Seventh-day Adventist Worldwide Movement " by Randy Robinson, pp. 04-07

**NAD Update:** "Adventist Information Ministry's New Suicide Prevention Course a Lifeline for Callers" by Christelle Agboka, pp. 08-09

**NAD News Briefs:** "Sonscreen Film "Those Were the Good Days" Wins Award, Receives Accolades at Several Festivals" by Kimberly Luste Maran, p. 11

**Perspective:** "Seeking the Lost" by John Bradshaw, p. 13

*This magazine is mailed to Adventists in North America; [click](#) to view the December issue online. [WATCH](#) the cover interview.*

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## VIEWPOINTS



### What We Have Experienced

"Our evangelism cannot just be about telling people what we know. It is about telling people what we have experienced. Tell me about how you went through loss. And you can still believe that God is good. Talk to me about that. ... Talk to me about your actual experience with Jesus."

— Heather Thompson Day, author, speaker, and associate professor at Andrews University, on Dec. 9, 2023, during a special worship service for NAD leadership

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## NAD MEDIA MINISTRIES



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## **NAD UNION COMMUNICATION PARTNERS**

**Atlantic Union Conference**

**Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada**

**Columbia Union Conference**

**Lake Union Conference**

**Mid-America Union Conference**

**North Pacific Union Conference**

**Pacific Union Conference**

**Southern Union Conference**



# Southwestern Union Conference

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