

Miracles Still Happen!

WATCH. BE INSPIRED. SHARE WITH YOUR CHURCH.



From "Witch" to Witness

awr.org/ranja

Ranja was held captive by the evil spirits that possessed her... until the day she turned on her radio.



Trading Guns for God

awr.org/rebels

More than 700 rebel assassins just laid down their guns in exchange for a new life in Jesus ... and they're already leading others to Him!



Taking a Bold Stand

awr.org/wisam

Wisam's own family tried to stone and stab him for his belief in God, but today he is an Adventist pastor in the Middle East!

Download the new AWR360° app to watch these and many more miracle stories at:

awr.org/apps



awr.org

(f) /awr360

@ @awr.360

2 @awr360

awr.org/videos

12501 OLD COLUMBIA PIKE SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20904 USA







NO WALLS. NO BORDERS. NO LIMITS.

Adventist Journey

Contents

04 Feature

North American Churches Use VOP Mental Health Event to Connect With Communities

06 Feature

2024 Pathfinder Bible Experience Promotes Faith, Community, and Service 10 NAD Update

13 Perspective The Perfect Pentecost Pin

My Journey

When I was in college, one Friday morning a group of directors of the publishing departments from all over the Philippines came to Mountain View College to promote literature evangelism for students. For five summers I was able to participate. I felt like I was able to perform something that I should do as a Christian, representing Christ through literature evangelism."

Visit nadadventist.org/ajezerlinao for more of Lin-Ao's story.

EZER LIN-AO,

nurse, living in Maumelle, Arkansas

Ezer Lin-



Cond and other busy and During

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

Adventist Journey (ISSN 1557-5519) is the journal of the North American Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Northern Asia-Pacific Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is the publisher. It is printed monthly by the Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Copyright © 2024. Send address changes to your local conference membership clerk. Contact information should be available through your local church.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Vol. 7, No. 9 September 2024. *Adventist Journey* **Publication Board** G. Alexander Bryant (chair), Kimberly Luste Maran (secretary), Kyoshin Ahn, Judy R. Glass, Wendy Eberhardt, Adam Fenner, Minner Labrador, Arne Nielsen, Calvin Watkins Sr., Ivan Williams Sr., Rick Remmers, Julio Muñoz, Karnik Doukmetzian, legal advisor **Scripture References** Unless otherwise noted, all Bible references are taken from the *The Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Email: AdventistJourney@nadadventist.org | Web site: nadadventist.org

ADVENTIST JOURNEY

Editor Kimberly Luste Maran

Media Producer Art Brondo

Art Direction & Design Ellen Musselman/Types & Symbols

Consultants Abraham J. Jules, Paul Llewellyn, Marcellus T. Robinson, Kenneth Denslow, Gary Thurber, John Freedman, Bradford C. Newton, Ron C. Smith, Carlos Craig



Visit us online!



North American Churches Use VOP Mental Health Event to Connect With Communities

BY AMANDA BLAKE

eeking to reach people outside their walls, more than 200 Seventh-day Adventist churches across North America hosted the short mental health series *MindFit* this past spring. The Voice of Prophecy (VOP) produced the event to empower churches to be practical and spiritual resources for their communities in battling an arguably continent-wide mental health crisis.

"On a global scale, one in eight people struggle daily with mental illness—one in five in North America. The implication is clear: It is nearly impossible to live on this earth and not be affected by mental illness," said Alex Rodriguez, associate speaker for VOP.

Each session of *MindFit*, a fourpart event, commences with audiences watching a 30-minute episode of a docuseries hosted by Rodriguez, who traveled across North America to speak with mental health professionals and patients. The series sheds light on the history and prevalence of mental health challenges. It emphasizes that effective treatments are available and *amplified* by biblical principles. After each episode a local church leader guides the audience through a provided study and discussion.

In the Local Context

More than half of the 60 individuals who came to *MindFit* at Templeton Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church in Templeton, California, were nonmembers. Pastor Zac Page led the local study and was impressed by its impact on his community.

Before the event had even begun, one man called Page to ask what *MindFit* was about. Intrigued by the series' content, he chose to attend and, after Page helped him access an online depression test, discovered he was clinically depressed. But *MindFit* helped transform his mental health.

"He told me *MindFit* healed him, that it helped him come out

of a hole," Page said. "He's been coming to church some and got engaged with our homeless ministry and Bible studies. As he came in to one study, he said, 'I need a little more Adventism.'"

One audience member told Page that she had received flyers for church events but never before attended one. When she saw an invitation to *MindFit*, she thought, *It is amazing that Christians are talking about mental health*.

"Just last week that woman was at church," Page added. "At potluck, people were giving her hugs. It was obvious that she had found a community."

Glen McAfee, head elder for Ryley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Alberta, was stunned by how comfortable people felt at *MindFit*.

"Every night, people seemed reluctant to leave," shared McAfee, who led the local study. "Multiple attendees said, 'We really feel safe here.'"

After McAfee's church presented *MindFit*, Ryley's local newspaper published a story about the event. What's more, 18 church members and five nonmembers attended, and every single one joined the VOP-created follow-up Bible study, "Peace Is an Inside Job." One nonmember attendee, a chef whom McAfee's brother-in-law befriended, is now regularly coming to church and blessing everyone at potluck with his tasty dishes.

"I really think *MindFit* made our church more visible in our community," McAfee said.

Andres Canizalez, pastor of the Clovis Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Mexico, also witnessed interest in his church increase after hosting *MindFit*.

"Our community has a huge need for mental health awareness; some use drugs and alcohol as antidepressants," Canizalez emphasized. "The *MindFit* videos helped us understand mental health struggles. Attendees also

"I really think MindFit made our church more visible in our community."

testified how they had personally faced these struggles and sought help to overcome drugs and alcohol."

Local mental health providers and government officials lent resources to the church to hand out at each *MindFit* session. Following the event, Canizalez kept in touch with several community attendees to encourage them and connect them with professionals. He plans to host the series again.

"Our church struggled getting information to our city," he said. "Thanks to *MindFit*, we were able to let people know that the Adventist Church cares about them."

Before presenting *MindFit* at Fredericksburg Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas, head deacon Don Krimmer was concerned that the stigma attached to mental health issues might dampen his church's engagement with the event.

"As Adventists, we don't often admit that we have problems. We like to think that we have it all together," explained Krimmer, a retired substance abuse counselor.

As Krimmer watched his audience open up during the discussion portion of each *MindFit* session, his worries dissipated. Many individuals shared how their lives had been touched by mental illness. The church's excitement grew so much that it is planning to host *MindFit* again in October.

"MindFit offers present truth," Krimmer said. "In the fall we're going to put in more effort getting our community to attend. Of course, we encourage people to invite friends to all our meetings, but this is a mental health event. That invitation is very nonthreatening."

White House Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tennessee is also preparing to host *MindFit* for a second time. During the first, Pastor Jeremy Leggett watched God mold the hearts of the audience members.

"We talked about the stigma around mental health, how some of our biases play into the way we view those who are suffering," Leggett said. "Church members who battled mental illnesses were willing to open up and confirm what we were hearing and seeing. We realized we needed to recognize that mental health truly is a far-reaching subject that touches each of our lives in different ways."

Two young women, both nonmembers who attended *MindFit* at White House, elected to begin Bible studies. The church hopes to reach a larger portion of its community by holding its second *MindFit* event outside its church walls.

Like Leggett, Rhoda Klein Miller, lead pastor of Oakridge Adventist Church in Vancouver, British Columbia, watched participants at *MindFit* display stirring vulnerability. Her church saw 180 attendees. Forty were nonmembers.

"People were so open and vulnerable," Miller noted. "Attendees talked about how, by hosting *MindFit*, our church presented itself as a safe place where we can talk about mental health; we can be a hub, a resource.

"I appreciate that the video content was done in collaboration with mental health professionals," she continued. "I think that builds a lot of credibility. I was skeptical, thinking *MindFit* would default to promoting just spiritual treatment, but it took a balanced approach by showing the importance of medical and spiritual support."

Adults were not the only ones impressed by *MindFit* at Miller's church. A Deer Lake Academy student planned to run child care during the event. However, when no attendees brought small children, the young woman sat in to observe the sessions. The content piqued her interest, eventually

leading her school to host the series on its campus.

A Fit for the Division

For churches interested in hosting *MindFit* and receiving an advertising boost to draw in more community members, VOP will conduct a continent-wide *MindFit* campaign on September 19-21 and again on January 2-4. In the weeks leading up to these dates, host churches will benefit from a mass social media campaign promoting the series.

"With approximately 6,500 Adventist churches dotting the landscape of North America, our denomination is uniquely positioned to be a center of healing for those who are struggling," Rodriguez said. "We filmed MindFit to place churches at the forefront of the mental health conversation. May the love of Jesus be reflected through us as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in bringing physical and spiritual healing to a world perishing in hopelessness."

Visit MindFitEvent.com/Host to join the myriad churches serving their communities through this unique evangelistic event.

Amanda Blake is a writer for the Voice of Prophecy.



2024 Pathfinder Bible Experience Promotes Faith, Community, and Service

BY CHRISTELLE AGBOKA

his morning we want to welcome you to Pathfinder Bible Experience 2024. You've made it to the division level. Give yourself a hand!" said Armando Miranda, PBE organizer and North American (NAD) associate director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, to much applause at the start of the PBE testing.

More than 2,500 Pathfinders, supporters, and volunteers packed the Island Grove Event Center in snowy Greeley, Colorado, April 19-20, 2024, for the final stage of the NAD's test of Bible knowledge. Of the 165 registered teams, 127 competed live, 11 joined virtually, and one participated in a hybrid format, with all teams focusing on the biblical books of Joshua and Judges.

Sabbath morning testing was preceded by vespers on April 19 and followed by an afternoon worship service on April 20, highlighting lessons found in Joshua, Judges, and other books of the Bible. PBE ended on a high note, with participants receiving their certificates and celebrating with

teammates and supporters during the awards ceremony.

Online viewers (7,986 on the NAD Pathfinders YouTube channel and 8,700 on Facebook) enjoyed insightful interviews of leaders and Pathfinders by livestream hosts Denison Sager, Iowa-Missouri Conference youth director, and Eric Chavez, Texico Conference youth director.

The excitement in the air was palpable. "I don't think I've ever seen this many Pathfinders before, so this is pretty exciting," said Natalie Erickson from Cleveland Prairie Trails Pathfinder Club in North Dakota, attending her first division final in three attempts. She attributed their success to "a little extra studying" and prayer.

God Opening Doors for Greeley

Participation was strong despite the large numbers attending the church's quinquennial international camporee this past August in Gillette, Wyoming. All nine North American unions, includ-





ing virtual teams from Hawaii and Guam-Micronesia, were represented. Several teams joined from the British Union, seven virtual and a few in person, and four virtual teams joined from Cuba.

The Beltsville Broncos Pathfinder Club (Maryland), which has made every PBE final to date, struggled to fund-raise for Gillette *and* PBE. But they bought plane tickets in faith once they passed the union level. Eventually God provided sufficient funds from donors, their union, and their conference.

Other teams, such as the Pasadena Pathfinder Club from California, overcame travel issues. Grace Chan shared, "Our plane had ice on the wings. The engine couldn't melt the ice, so we had to divert to Salt Lake City, Utah." They waited for 12 hours, arriving at 4:00 a.m. on Friday, and by Sabbath were fully recovered.

Whatever their challenges reaching Greeley, most clubs would concur with Nesco Lettsome, the Potomac Conference's specialty coordinator for communications and Beltsville Broncos supporter. "We tell our children, don't put God in a box. If He can do incredible things for Joshua, He can do incredible things for you," Lettsome shared.

Four-Step Journey to Finals

The journey to the finals is a four-step process involving months of Bible study and memorization.

Teams of up to six people, selected by their clubs, compete in their local districts. Teams scoring within 90 percent of the highest score advance to the next level, from the conference to the division.

Testing began after an opening ceremony featuring a color guard and drum corps from the host Rocky Mountain Conference. Teams answered 90 questions, earning points from one to eight, with 30-to 60-second time limits based on difficulty. Testing was conducted in English, French, Spanish, and Ukrainian. Ultimately 110 teams scored within 90 percent of the highest score, earning first place.

Throughout testing, Pathfinders' voices rarely rose above a quiet hum, as most prayed at their tables to start, conferred among themselves, or did air high-fives. But the room exploded with shouts of joy after questions 45 and 90. Chavez quipped, "It's almost like you could hear the walls of Jericho fall when these kids screamed at the answer to question 90."

Equipping the Next Generation of Leaders

PBE introduced Pathfinders and parents to academic and ministry opportunities through different means including, for the first time, the participation of five Adventist universities in the program. Representatives from Union

"Seeing so many young teenagers excited about the Bible and Jesus, finding community within the church . . . It gives hope."

Adventist University, Andrews University, Pacific Union College, Advent Health University, and Southern Adventist University led icebreakers, giveaways, and music. They also staffed tables in the main hall and another room designated for parents during testing.

During a pause in the Sabbath program, Esther Knott, NAD associate ministerial director, there to promote the NextGen pastor program, invited Pathfinders who felt called to ministry in any capacity up for a special prayer, and 30 came forward. "The church needs you. We need your energy and your ideas. We need your innovation to grow God's kingdom," she asserted.

Casey Vaughan-Claus, recruiting and marketing specialist for the NAD Office of Volunteer Ministries, encouraged young people to consider volunteering. Her time at PBE, speaking to young people and observing their willingness to help with setup and takedown, was meaningful.

"We talk a lot about young people leaving the church. But I don't think we talk enough about and celebrate

adventist Joyaney

those choosing to stay. [Seeing] so many young teenagers excited about the Bible and Jesus, finding community within the church . . . It gives hope."

PBE's International Connection Expanding

Twelve years ago PBE's first group of international teams from the South England Conference (SEC) began participating under the leadership of Kevin Johns. Johns, then SEC Pathfinder director, was elected British Union Conference Youth and Pathfinder director in 2021.

When Dejan Stojkovic began as the British Union Conference's Youth Ministries director in 2017, he led PBE expansion efforts across the territory. Today several British Union teams participate in the NAD PBE in person and virtually. Since 2021 they have also had the option to compete closer to home in the Trans-European Division PBE finals, which Johns directs.

Pastor Ikwisa Mwasumbi, North England Conference Pathfinder director, shared that after his region successfully joined PBE in 2018, the pandemic lockdown brought the number of Pathfinder clubs down from 78 to 47. However, restarting PBE was the cure. "This is an amazing thing. Clubs rose to 66 owing to PBE at the beginning of the year," said Mwasumbi. He added, "Not only are our club numbers growing, but baptism has been phenomenal. Last year more than 170 young people gave their hearts to Jesus."

His testimony, shared during a prayer meeting, motivated Jacynter Were, lay pastor and Pathfinder leader from Kenya, to accompany Mwasumbi and team to the 2023 PBE in Tampa, Florida. "She went back to Kenya and established [PBE] right there. She's a testament to the spreading of this wonderful news around the world," said Mwasumbi.

This year two of the 13 teams Were formed from her home church reached the Trans-European Division PBE final in Amsterdam, receiving first and third place. Were said, "We've seen a great



change in the Pathfinders as we started this year. Parents tell me they come from school, freshen up [quickly], do their homework, then check their Bibles." Two PBE participants from her church were baptized.

In 2024, when Stojkovic became the Greater Sydney Conference's youth director, he introduced PBE to his new colleagues. Seeking to "raise the spiritual temperature" of Pathfinders in Australia, which is more outdoorsy and activity-based, the conference sent a small delegation to observe this year's PBE operations. Jacinda Ralph, Youth Department assistant, Shelly Phipps, district director, Adventurers, and Colleen Maeva, district director, Pathfinders, were blown away by the logistics, dedicated volunteers, and enthusiastic Pathfinders.

PBE's Lasting Reward

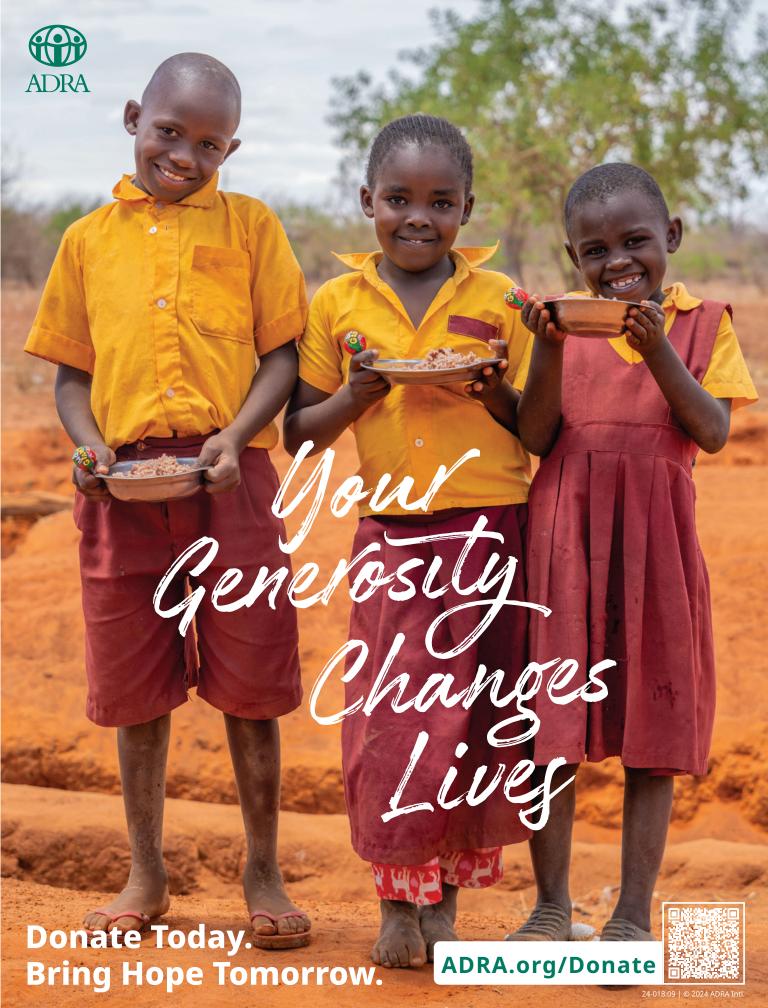
PBE, which would not exist without the dedication of scores of volunteer leaders giving their time and resources, ended on a high as teams received their certificates and celebrated with teammates and supporters during the awards ceremony. But PBE has rewards beyond the certificates.

David Jaquez, a TLT from the Collegeview Trailblazers Club, Lincoln, Nebraska, at his fourth in-person final, didn't hesitate when asked what PBE has meant to him: "The biggest thing is getting Scripture in your head and keeping that forever. That has the best value you can ever, ever want."

Miranda concluded, "Think about the Joshua 1:9 promise: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous; do not be terrified, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Can you imagine them repeating those words when they're facing temptation, when they're facing a challenge? The hope of Pathfinder Bible Experience is that whatever they study, they can come back [to it] when facing a hard time, because God's Word is powerful, and it remains in hearts and minds."

The 2025 PBE division testing will take place in historic Battle Creek, Michigan, the early headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pathfinders will be tested on the New Testament books of Romans and 1 and 2 Corinthians. Visit nadpbe.org for more info. Visit ow.ly/6eBF50SFEsm to read the full version of this article; watch the video news report at vimeo.com/955034117.

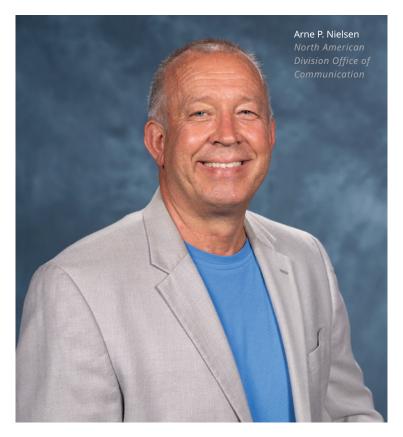
Christelle Agboka is a news writer/news producer for the North American Division.



ARNE NIELSEN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, PASSES TO HIS REST

rne P. Nielsen, vice president for the Office of Education for the North American Division (NADOE) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, unexpectedly passed to his rest on June 3, 2024, after several days in the intensive-care unit dealing with complications from an acute illness. He was 64.

"We have lost a tremendous servant of God, a great leader, a true friend, a devoted husband and father," said G. Alexander Bryant, NAD president, upon hearing the news of Nielsen's passing. "We especially lift up his wife, Teen, and three sons—Josh, Jake, and Jesse—and offer to this family our most sincere condolences. Though our hearts are broken, we look forward to seeing Arne again."



"Our hearts are heavy and burdened with the news that Arne Nielsen died early this morning," wrote Ted N. C. Wilson, General Conference president, in a communication to world church leaders. Wilson, who knew Nielsen's parents when they were missionaries, continued: "Arne Nielsen was a very committed educator dedicated to the wonderful spiritual asset of Adventist education. Our deep sympathy and condolences go to Teen, his wife, who works in GC secretariat, their three children, and the extended Nielsen family. What hope we have in Jesus' soon return!"

In November 2018 Nielsen was voted to serve as the division's vice president for education, a role he fulfilled until his unexpected passing. Previously he served as the NAD director of secondary education and accreditation from 2014 to 2018.

Larry Blackmer, retired NAD vice president for education, said, "Arne's gift was in collaboration. He had an open-mindedness that allowed him to strengthen relationships and really build the team at the NADOE. During his time at the NAD he connected with people, with key stakeholders, and really got them to buy into his vision."

"Arne Nielsen has been a source of stability and support in the Guam-Micronesia Mission for years and has drawn close to many in the islands as he has labored alongside us to reach people with the gospel. His presence will be greatly missed," shared Matthew Kirk, GMM president.

From January 2011 to February 2014
Nielsen served as vice president for Integrated Youth Ministries in the Florida
Conference, leading Children's and Family Ministries, Youth and Young Adult
Ministries, Camp Ministries, and the
Education Department in a joint venture
to disciple God's children. Before that,
he served for four years as superintendent of education in the Florida Conference (from July 2006 to December 2010)
and three years as superintendent of
education in the Idaho Conference (from
November 2003 to July 2006).

ADVENTIST JOURNey

"I was fortunate to work as Arne's assistant while he was the Idaho Conference superintendent of education. He was truly a godly man. No matter how early I arrived at the office, he was already there, deep into his daily Bible study," said Connie Williams, administrative assistant to the Idaho Conference superintendent of education. "He cared about the teachers. When a teacher with a need contacted him, he worked diligently to have resources and solutions to them by the end of that same day. His strong leadership, and his caring style, had a lasting impact on the schools and teachers."

Williams added, "Arne's family was a priority. While his work included many meetings and travel, he always found a way to spend quality time with his family. Arne was very proud of his sons, and his eyes sparkled whenever he spoke about Teen."

Impact in the NAD

Believing that all children have the right to reach their God-given potential, Nielsen thought that the best way to accomplish this was by relying on God to lead, building trust and buy-in from educators, developing instructional leaders at the school level, and creating a differentiated system that provides resources and support for educators to grow and flourish. During Nielsen's tenure at the NAD he successfully managed several significant departmental initiatives, such as:

- Facilitating school accreditation visits for Guam-Micronesia Mission schools.
- · Providing instrumental leadership in development of NAD's own student information system, AE-Connect.
- Guiding the taskforce that updated Journey 2 Excellence, a guide and framework for continuous improvement at all levels of Adventist education.
- Supporting the development of standards-based learning initiatives in K-12 education.
- Supporting and advocating for the development of a mental health website, mental health training for educators, and NAD social-emotional standards.
- · Developing the Grade 1-12 Encounter Bible program for NAD schools.
- Cofounding the international Encounter Bible committee with the Australian/New Zealand Union to oversee curriculum release and training for the global Adventist community.

"Arnie was an easy, informal, comfortable person to work with. He also had a good sense of humor that made our relationship enjoyable," shared Gordon Bietz, retired Southern Adventist University president and retired NAD associate director for higher education. "His legacy enriched education worldwide, particularly in measuring and quantifying progress."



Early Days: From Ghana to U.S. to Kenya

Nielsen was born in Ghana, West Africa, to missionary parents from Denmark, and his early years in the mission field instilled in him a love of service, heart for mission, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

After graduating from Andrews Academy, Nielsen went on to finish a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education/ Health at Andrews University in 1983. He landed his first teaching job at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) in North Carolina in 1983. He taught physical education, health, and biology lab; coached gymnastics; and served as a boys' dean. He eventually served as Mount Pisgah principal from 1991 to 1996. While juggling the responsibilities of a boarding school, Nielsen also completed a Master of Arts in School Administration at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

In 1996 the Nielsen family moved to Africa, where Nielsen spent seven years as principal and business manager for Maxwell Adventist Academy in Nairobi, Kenya.

"Arne Nielsen left a long-lasting legacy at Maxwell Academy. Students, teachers, and staff have been profoundly touched by his love and care," Lari Rusenescu, principal, Maxwell Adventist Academy, said. "Arne's support to Maxwell did not stop at the end of his assignment. He continued to provide guidance through his frequent visits as a member of the accreditation teams. The next visit will not be to Nairobi, but we will meet him when Jesus calls us all to go home."

A memorial service was held at the North American Division headquarters in Columbia, Maryland, on June 30, 2024. Another memorial service was held on July 27, 2024, at the Mount Pisgah Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church in Candler, North Carolina.

Kimberly Luste Maran, Christelle Agboka, and Aimee Leukert

SABN Homecoming Camp Meeting



SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2024

Discover a new life in Christ!







and your 3ABN family!







Jill Morikone



Danny Shelto



Yvonne Shelto



Rvan Day



John Dinzey



Shelley Quini



James Rafferty



Kenny Shelto

Tune in or attend in person. Watch on 3ABNPlus.tv.





BY RUDY SALAZAR

The Perfect Pentecost Pin

recently received a lapel pin that says: "I Am on Fire for Pentecost 2025." As I read the words, my mind turned them into a question: *Am I on Fire for Pentecost 2025?*As I hear the plans for this North American Division en-

deavor, I can imagine people rolling their eyes and thinking, *Here it goes. Another church program.* But as I study Bible prophecy and the writings of Ellen G. White, I feel God convicting me to pray—and for us as a group to pray—for the Holy Spirit to be poured out so that Pentecost 2025 will be the final call to "board the plane."

The heart of the Seventh-day Adventist message at the end of time is the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. Our church logo features three symbolic angels flying directly above the Bible. Those three angels of Revelation 14 crying out in a loud voice are our marching orders to partner with God in the last harvest of the earth.

"And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped" (Rev. 14:15, 16, NKJV).*

If the harvest is ripe, what is preventing Jesus from reaping? It can't be that the world is not ready for harvest yet, because even in Jesus' day He said it was ready. When visiting Samaria, the disciples came back with food to feed hungry Jesus, and He said to them, "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (John 4:35, NKJV). Again, in Luke 10:2 Jesus says: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (NKJV). In both verses Jesus states that the world is ready for harvest. The problem is the lack of workers.

Could it be that we, God's workers, are not ready for the harvest?

Igniting the Fire Within

For me, Pentecost 2025 is more than having 3,000 full-blown evangelistic meetings to harvest souls here in North America. It's about allowing the Holy Spirit to ignite a fire within us, the workers. This includes everyone involved, from those inviting people to attend, to those assisting with the event, to those praying for the event, and especially those presenting the Word of God. It encompasses individuals from all walks of life—whether paid or unpaid, even the children—who may hold evangelistic meetings.

In light of Revelation 14, the last chapter of Ellen White's book *Christ Object Lessons*, "To Meet the Bridegroom," makes three clear points. First, the virgins represent the Adventist Church right before the Second Coming. Second, half of the church is not ready to go to

the wedding. And third, the ones who are ready have experienced a personal Pentecost in their lives. These Adventists have the extra oil of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost 2025 is not about doing evangelism—many churches

are already doing it. Pentecost 2025 is about the Holy Spirit doing the work in and through us. Having 3,000 evangelistic meetings without the oil of the Holy Spirit can be just another program implemented by the church hierarchy. But if we choose to go into our upper rooms and beg for the Holy Spirit to fall on us, then Pentecost 2025 could be the final harvest.

Are you on fire for Pentecost 2025?

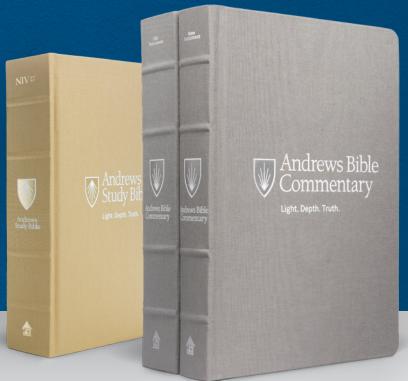
* Bible texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Rudy Salazar is associate director of stewardship for the North American Division.

Could it be that we, God's workers, are not ready for the harvest?



The Adventist standard for the next generation



The Andrews Bible Commentary is the perfect companion to the **Andrews Study Bible**.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!

Adventist Book Center: 800-765-6955

Andrews University Press: 800-467-6369

or universitypress.andrews.edu

Enthusiastic readers say...

"This commentary set is great! I absolutely love it!"

"The commentary is an easy read.
I'm enjoying reading it cover to cover."

"These commentaries are such a great resource for going deeper into God's word. Reading through portions of the Old Testament has helped me see more clearly the heart of God."

The accessible commentary by the scholars of the church for the people of the church



Carol

is 80 and living with gratitude every day.

She had a friend tell her about ways to take advantage of new tax benefits so that she could help in a greater capacity. She is as excited as ever to help the youth program at her church continue to grow. But Carol still has questions.



To learn more about Carol's journey—scan the QR code, or visit **willplan.org/Carol**





Experience the Joy of Giving

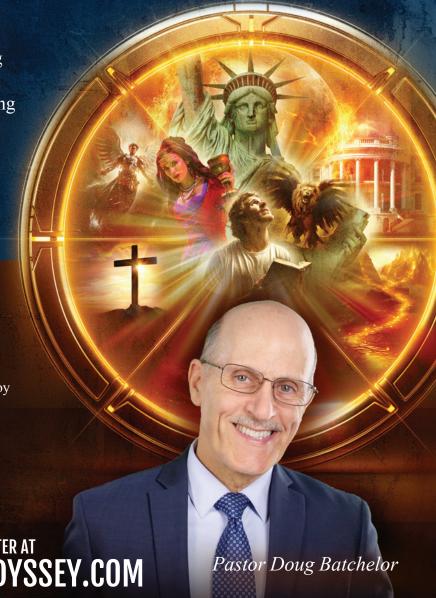
willplan.org

AMAZING FACTS IS GOING TO NEW YORK CITY!

I'm inviting you to partner with me, Amazing Facts, and the worldwide church in winning souls this coming fall by hosting *Prophecy Odyssey* in your church or home! This exciting evangelistic series will be broadcast live from the Manhattan Center in New York beginning September 20.

Here are just a few ways you can host *Prophecy Odyssey*:

- Advertise the series in your community and show it in your church sanctuary.
- Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy the series in your home.
- Watch a rebroadcast of the series with co-workers during a lunch break.
- Host the meetings for church youth in a member's home.
- View the series with a remote group on Zoom and discuss what you learned.





LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT PROPHECYODYSSEY.COM