





Adventist Journey

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You know when you're trying to do it by yourself? That's when God shows up. Miraculously, I was able to open my doors in a short time, but six months later, in comes the pandemic. I needed to pay my bills, my staff. I prayed. Not long after, I got a phone call from a retiring doctor, asking me if I would like to take her patients. It was God again.

Visit nadadventist.org/ajpameladsouzadavid for more of D'Souza-David's story.

PAMELA D'SOUZA-DAVID. ophthalmologist, Maryland



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

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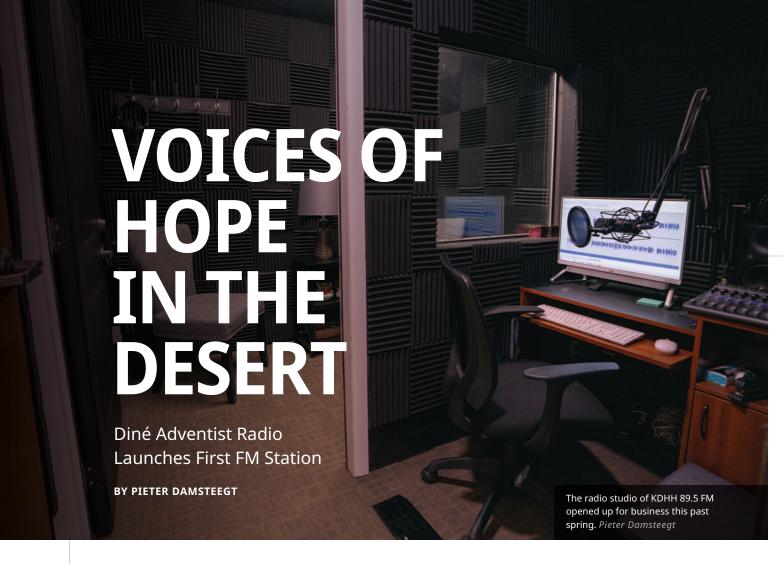
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Adventist World and Adventist Review magazines have come together, starting with the July/ August edition! Check out the "new" Review right here, after the Adventist Journey magazine pages. And for the rest of 2025, Adventist Journey will be published every other month as we plan for an update coming in 2026.

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ADVENTIST Journey



n March 19, 2025, at precisely 4:24 p.m., the airwaves above Kaibeto, Arizona, came alive with a message of hope. Diné Adventist Radio's first full-power FM station—KDHH 89.5 FM—went live, reaching listeners across Tuba City, Kaibeto, and the Western Agency of the Navajo Nation. It was a quiet but powerful breakthrough for a project years in the making.

The first listener to respond was a woman en route to the hospital with her husband. She called to thank the station for "songs of hope" that encouraged her heart on a difficult drive.

That moment, and others like it, are exactly what the Diné Adventist Radio (DAR) team has been praying for since the dream was born five years ago. What began as a Sabbath afternoon conversation in a small room in Window Rock, Arizona, has grown into a cross-conference, cross-cultural media ministry aiming to reach 90 percent of the Navajo population with the Seventh-day Adventist message of hope, health, and healing.

Radio That Reaches

"After 100 years of Adventist work among the Navajo people, they are still an unreached people group," said

Dale Wolcott, a pastor who has served across the Navajo Nation since 1990 and helped relaunch churches in Chinle and Window Rock. "Radio can reach places it would take missionaries years to go."

The Navajo Nation covers more than 27,000 square miles across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Many families live without internet, electricity, or television. But almost every household has a battery-powered radio.

That's why DAR matters. With the recent FCC approval of KDHH and other pending licenses, Diné Adventist Radio is building a network of three full-power and four low-power FM stations. Combined with ongoing weekly programming on major tribal stations (such as KTNN) and a live global stream, the network is positioned to touch lives across reservation lines, state borders, and even generations.

Voices From Within

At the heart of the project is a commitment to cultural authenticity. Most DAR programs are produced by Navajo Adventist members and friends, with content airing in both English and Navajo.

"We're trying to help keep the language alive," said Kenneth Kirtley, DAR's program director. Married into "Translating programs into Navajo is one of our biggest challenges, but it's also one of our greatest opportunities."

a Navajo family and seasoned by 23 years in commercial radio, Kirtley brings technical expertise and deep respect to his role. "Translating programs into Navajo is one of our biggest challenges, but it's also one of our greatest opportunities."

His personal investment runs even deeper. After praying through months of uncertainty, he left a stable career to join the DAR team fulltime just days before his own self-imposed deadline. "If that wasn't a sign from God, I don't know what is," he said.

Miracles in the Margins

Dale Wolcott recalls a moment that captures the spirit of the project: "We were facing a \$15,000 bill to clear land for a tower site when I got a call out of the blue. A man from Black Mesa was trying to reach the LDS church but got my number instead."

It turned out that the man operated heavy equipment, and he offered to clear the land—for free—after Wolcott helped him and his longtime partner get married.

"The next week the site was cleared," Wolcott added. Story after story like this fuels the team's conviction that God is at work.

What's Next

With KDHH now live, the team is preparing to launch KDHP in Pinon (equipment installed, power pending) and begin construction on the flagship Gallup station, which still needs \$330,000 in funding.

Meanwhile, listeners are already responding. A recent program offering free GodPod devices loaded with bilingual content prompted





14 responses in just two minutes. Bible study requests continue to roll in from across the region.

And through it all the DAR team keeps moving forward—producing new content, building relationships with tribal leaders, and praying for the resources, power lines, and personnel needed to reach the rest of the Navajo

"We're already hearing from people in places we don't even have churches," said Wolcott. "Radio is going to places we could never reach otherwise."

From Static to Signal

Wolcott, Kirtley, Steve Pester (network manager), and a growing team of producers and volunteers continue working toward the dream: a network of fully Navajo-produced content, broadcasting 24/7 to the entire Navajo Nation and

"This is not just about launching a radio station," said Pester. "It's about being a voice of hope in every hogan, every truck, every quiet corner of the desert."

One signal is live. More are coming. The desert is listening.

Pieter Damsteegt is a video producer for the North American Division.

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ADVENTIST CONNECT DEDICATES WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY OFFICE SPACE IN COLLEGE PLACE



The West Coast hub of Adventist Connect celebrates its official new home with special prayer and dedication service.

BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

orth American Division (NAD) church leaders, Adventist Connect staff, and Walla Walla University administrators and students gathered on April 16, 2025, on the campus of the university to dedicate a new office space for the West Coast hub of the NAD's ministry-driven contact center. The event, preceded by Adventist Connect's board meeting, was marked by words of gratitude, prayer, and spiritual reflection,

celebrating both the physical space and the people who serve within it.

"This isn't just a call center—it's a place where ministry happens," said Brent Hardinge, director of Adventist Connect (formerly Adventist Information Ministry). "We wanted to pause with the board members here and dedicate not just the space but the people and the sacred work that happens in [this office]." Hardinge shared his story about moving to Michigan three years ago and how

← Brent Hardinge (center) welcomes guests to the Adventist Connect office at Walla Walla University, flanked by Adventist Connect's Stephanie Kaping (left) and Anthony White (right). Chris Drake

the former homeowner, with Hardinge's approval, asked a pastor to pray over the house before the family moved in. "That moment reminded me how powerful it can be to intentionally dedicate a place for God's work," he said. "We want this space to be filled with that same spirit—an environment where God can move through every phone call and every message. This is an opportunity to dedicate the space and ministry that is happening with the students here."

The new location, formerly a bank, was recognized symbolically as being reclaimed for a higher purpose. Speakers, including board member and Pacific Press Publishing Association president Dale Galusha, and NAD officers G. Alexander Bryant, Kyoshin Ahn, and Judy Glass, highlighted the deep impact of the ministry on both those who receive support and the students who provide it.

Anthony White, an associate director for Adventist Connect who manages daily operations at the Walla Walla University office, shared firsthand the challenges and triumphs students have experienced. "There have been moments students felt dark forces working against them while taking calls," he said. "We know the Spirit is moving here. These students, who are ministering to those who call, are the driving force behind what we do."

"Working at Adventist Connect has been such a blessing," said Jasmine Edmundson, a sophomore majoring in film and minoring in aviation. "It's more than a job—it's a Christ-centered ministry that's helped me grow spiritually and professionally. I've developed leadership, communication, and customer service skills, all while drawing closer to Jesus."

Edmundson added, "The best part? I get to pray with people and be part of a mission that points others to Christ. I'm truly honored to be on this team."

More Than a Call Center

"We're delighted to have this West Coast operation and also to support this ministry," commented Bryant, NAD president, while sharing how he heard incredible stories about the call center from student workers during lunch. "It's amazing how God can take one thing and do so many things and impact so many people from that one ministry."

In his remarks, Alex Bryan, Walla Walla University president, emphasized the importance of the partnership with the broader church. "This is not a side piece of our ministry—it's the heart of why Walla Walla exists," he said. "This campus is already prayed for deeply on a regular basis, and so now it's almost like we're stepping into a double blessing as we double up on the prayers and the blessings for the sacred ground that we stand." Bryan shared how this partnership provides a critical place for students to hone their ministry skills. "So goes Walla Walla University, so goes the Adventist Church in the West," he added.

The spiritual centerpiece of the event was a time of intentional prayer, with several leaders asking for divine guidance, protection, and presence in the space. Adam Fenner, director of the Adventist



↑ On April 16, 2025, Adventist Connect director and team members, Walla Walla University administrators, and North American Division leaders bow their heads as Alex Bryan, WWU president (center, foreground), prays over Adventist Connect's new office on Walla Walla University campus. *Chris Drake*

Learning Community and NAD vice president for digital ministries, reflected on Adventist Connect's value in today's digital society.

"In a world of efficiency and artificial intelligence, Adventist Connect is about putting people in front of people," Fenner said. Remarking that the digital world creates barriers in relationships, he added, "It's exactly what Christians need to be doing—connecting with people, sharing hope."

Prayers of Dedication

Bryant closed with a reminder of the sacred nature of the work. "This is ministry—real ministry," he said. "These students are like angels, God's messengers answering calls, offering hope. We're honored to dedicate this space to that holy purpose."

Bryant prayed, "Each person . . . each chair, each phone, each computer—we want to dedicate it all to You. We're asking for a double portion of Your Spirit to be in this place, be in the lives of everyone who enters the door as they minister on Your behalf to Your sons and daughters all across this land. I pray that You give them extraordinary wisdom and tact and skill to deal with each caller, each chat."

As the final prayers were offered, themes of mission, mentorship, and multiplication echoed through the office, marking not just the opening of a new office but the continuation of transformational ministry.

NAD NEWS BRIEFS

NAD NEWS BRIEFS



Southern Adventist University Nursing Students Create Community Health Connections

Community health is a crucial element of nursing that takes place beyond the hospital setting. "The goal of community health is to improve the overall health and well-being of communities," says John Singletary, instructor at Southern Adventist University's School of Nursing. "By meeting physical and spiritual needs, we help create a stronger, healthier, and more connected community where everyone can thrive." During the fall semester of this school year, in his Population and Community Health Nursing course, Singletary enabled students to put those ideals into practice.

In partnership with Andrew Richards, professor in the School of Nursing, Singletary facilitated a chance for nursing students to teach nearly 80 third graders about health at Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Elementary in Tennessee. Additionally, in collaboration with AdventHealth Manchester and Becky Retzer, recently retired professor of nursing, Singletary took students on a mission trip to Manchester, Kentucky, to conduct pre- and post-assessments on homes in the area.

"Anytime we can provide our students with hands-on, practical experience, we want to," Richards explains. "It's a whole lot better than students sitting in a lecture."

Nine students volunteered to teach at Chattanooga Charter School and worked in groups of three to create lessons that aligned with a broader theme. Under the umbrella of hygiene, Jacqueline Sopandi taught the students how to sneeze, cough, and wear a mask effectively by using a spray bottle to illustrate the spread of germs. "I loved talking with the kids and seeing how excited they were," she shares. "At the end of the lesson, they'd always tell me all sorts of details that they remembered."

On the Manchester mission trip, 14 students spent several days creating healthier living environments as part of the Healthy Homes Initiative.

← Southern nursing students teach third graders about health at Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence Elementary.

Southern Adventist University

"During our assessments, we evaluated elements such as fire alarms, window locks, unstable railings, and slippery bathroom floors," explains Keeley Phillips, senior nursing major and one of the trip participants.

Students also set up a free health screening clinic at a local Walmart. They provided free blood pressure screenings along with blood sugar and lipid level checks. On the last day, students installed a ramp on a family's front porch to improve accessibility and home safety.

"Health care does not end when a patient goes home from the hospital," Phillips says. "Good nursing involves open-mindedness, creativity, and lots of community building."

"Both projects align well with our mission here at Southern of going into underserved communities and building relationships," Singletary says. The projects additionally addressed the goals identified by Healthy People 2030, a national initiative from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

"Our activities at Chattanooga Charter School matched goals to help young people combat obesity, lack of exercise, and so on," he says. "Our work in Manchester directly supports the Neighborhoods and Built Environment and the Health Care Access and Quality goals, reducing healthcare disparities and empowering individuals to take charge of their health."

Singletary returned to Manchester during the Winter 2025 semester from March 13 to 18. He and Richards hope to continue school visitations in the upcoming semesters.

—Chehalis Eno, Southern Adventist University

Union Adventist University Receives Grant for Culinary Medicine Teaching Kitchen

The Ardmore Institute of Health has awarded Union Adventist University's Master of Public Health program a grant to establish a culinary medicine teaching kitchen (CMTK). The \$35,000 will purchase six commercial-grade mobile workstations, each including the culinary tools and appliances to support two students at a time, enabling the university to host classes of up to 12 students in the teaching kitchen. Any remaining funds will support a student garden that was established by the university's first public health cohort last year.

"With the CMTK, we can translate abstract nutritional guidelines into practical, appealing meals," said Eric Aakko, director of Union's Master of Public Health program. "In public health we promote healthy eating patterns to prevent chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease and ensure adequate nutrient intake across populations. Knowing how to cook healthy food that tastes good is essential for dietary adherence."

Aakko is a certified plant-based chef educator and will guide students through an evidence-based culinary medicine curriculum established by the American College of Lifestyle Medicine. The curriculum is entirely plant-based and teaches basic culinary and knife skills, including preparing a range of entrees, sides, and desserts. The first classes in the

teaching kitchen will meet once per week for nine weeks starting in September.

The source of this grant, the Ardmore Institute of Health, was founded in 1947 and is committed to improving health and well-being through lifestyle change. The institute draws inspiration from Adventist principles of healthy living and the sanitarium movement in its work.

Cooking classes are far from a new frontier for Adventists. Aakko points out that lifestyle medicine mirrors many Adventist beliefs while providing a modern clinical and scientific framework for health improvement. "Both lifestyle medicine and the Adventist health message view health holistically, recognizing the interconnection between the physical, social, mental, and spiritual," he said. "The Adventist health message goes beyond just health improvement to also seeing healthy living as a form of stewardship and worship."

Learning culinary skills will help students address food insecurity and life in food deserts, issues Aakko has had to confront in communities throughout his work in public health. "The CMTK experience can empower individuals and communities to make the most of often limited resources," he said. "This can involve teaching cooking techniques for inexpensive staples like beans,



↑ Union Adventist University was awarded a grant to launch Culinary Medicine Teaching Kitchen, promoting whole-person wellness through food and education. Photo provided by Union Adventist University

legumes, and whole grains, preserving food, minimizing food waste, and adapting recipes to utilize foods available through assistance programs like WIC or SNAP as well as community gardens and food banks."

According to Aakko, research elsewhere has demonstrated that students who engage in a CMTK are more likely to adopt and maintain a healthier lifestyle while engaging with and promoting a healthier lifestyle to their patients and community. With so many of Union's students heading into careers related to health care, a teaching kitchen on campus will empower them to become better health educators and advocates.

—Scott Cushman, Union Adventist University

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NAD NEWS BRIEFS



Washington Adventist University Recognized as an "Opportunity University" in New Carnegie Classification

Washington Adventist University has been officially recognized as an Opportunity College and University (OCU) in the latest Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, a distinction awarded to only 16 percent of more than 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide.

The new OCU category highlights institutions that provide higher access and produce higher earnings for graduates. WAU's inclusion in this prestigious classification affirms the university's commitment to delivering transformative education that empowers students from diverse backgrounds to thrive both professionally and personally.

"WAU provides more opportunities to deserving students than nearly any other four-year institution," said Weymouth Spence, president of WAU. "This new Carnegie OCU classification highlights the effectiveness of our faith-driven mission of Adventist excellence in higher education and the transformative impact this has on the lives of our students."

Out of more than 1,400 four-year (baccalaureate level) colleges in the United States, WAU ranks among the top for student access while also producing graduates with above-average earnings. WAU is one of only six institutions in Maryland to receive the OCU designation and the only Seventh-day Adventist university in the "baccalaureate and above" category to achieve this honor.

Unlike many peer institutions, WAU is distinct as a vibrant, international community—representing students from more than 40 countries—located just outside the nation's capital. Its liberal arts foundation and faith-infused curriculum cultivate competent, moral leaders ready to make a global impact.

"Our Vision 2030 strategic plan is rooted in distinctive excellence in student success," added Spence. "At WAU, all of God's children are welcome, and we partner with students to help them graduate on time, with little to no debt, and prepared for both the workplace and eternity."

—Everett Wiles, Washington Adventist University Integrated Marketing and Communication BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

People Are the Priority

n July, just a short time ago, the Seventh-day Adventist Church held its sixty-second General Conference (GC) Session in St. Louis, Missouri. Top leaders for the worldwide church were selected; church policy was updated; guests enjoyed the ministry exhibits, the pageantry, music, and worship gatherings—and the "family reunion" element of it all. And, hopefully, the visiting Adventists left a positive impression on the city.

This was the sixth session I attended as an Adventist Church employee. By what can only be described as God's plans for my life, thus far I have spent most of my adult working years in church employment. It's not just a paycheck; far from that. The words in Matthew 24:14 matter. I believe in ministry. I believe in God. I believe that inviting Jesus into our hearts and minds is of eternal consequence. And I believe it is important to share this message with others. I happen to try to do that each day from my communication and public relations perch.

After each of these GC sessions, after all the articles, photos, videos, and social media posts, I've wondered: What are we leaving behind? And what are we moving toward as a denomination? Who are we moving toward?

Believers are told by Jesus Christ to make people our priority. It is recorded in Scripture—to go out and witness and preach to them (Matt. 28:19), to treat others the way we want to be treated (Matt. 7:12), and to love others as much as we love ourselves (Matt. 22:39). Working for the church, no matter the department, no matter the capacity, our mission is likewise. And for that matter, being a church member, no matter the position, implies serving. People are the priority.

Reports, meetings and all sorts of things that are part of serving organizationally can sometimes obscure our view and shift the mission away from caring for others. It is interesting that "reformed" tax collector Matthew wrote so much reminding us, and probably himself, to love the Lord and keep others first.

Paul was worried about the care of church members. In 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 he shares his troubles and burdens. In addition to beatings, shipwrecks, and fears of attack by others (to name a few things), Paul writes about his significant workload. And no, he isn't boasting, he's just putting things into perspective for the Corinthians. Despite all he has gone through, at the end of the day his focus is on the church—or rather, the people that comprise the church. He concludes, "Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches."

It can be a challenge to remember our priorities as we labor for Him. Prayer helps keep us energized, humble, deliberate, and focused.

We all have talents in various areas, and we all have jobs to do. These revolve in some way around relationships with people—building them and nurturing them while pointing toward Jesus and His precious gift of salvation.

We are Christ's body and as parts of

the body we must work with and for each other (see 1 Cor. 12:1-13 and 25). Paul reminds us that "the same Spirit distributes them."
"There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

We can all use a little adjustment sometime or another. A God, the Son, and Holy Spirit reality check.

I am not saying that the

church doesn't work together. It does. But we can all use a little adjustment sometime or another. A God, the Son, and Holy Spirit reality check.

As we go about this earthly life of ours, I hope we all strive to keep our priorities straight; and that we all remember there is no work without the people.

Kimberly Luste Maran is editor of Adventist Journey and communication director for the North American Division.

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