

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



News and Information from the North American Division

NEWSPOINTS

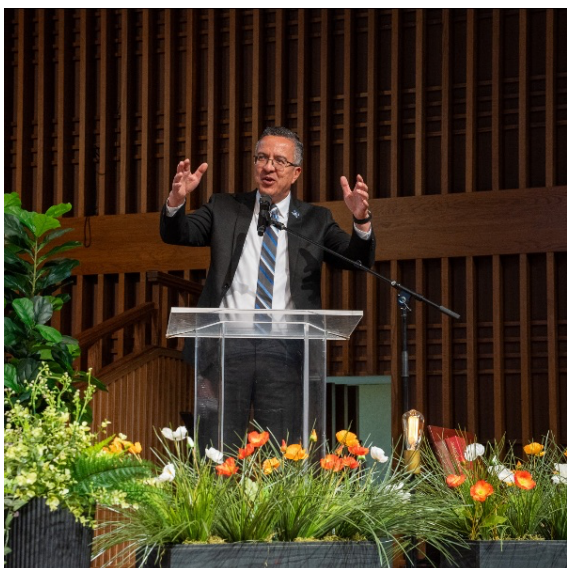
May 7, 2026



Held April 9–11 at Loma Linda University Church in Calif., Sonscreen Film Festival brought together 222 students, professional filmmakers, and guests. The jam-packed program showcased 56 student films and several professional projects, interspersed with workshops and networking opportunities with faith-based film professionals. [MORE](#)



Several minutes before the start of the NAD's 2026 Pathfinder Bible Experience on April 18, 239 teams, along with runners, judges, volunteers, and support staff, filled every corner of the conference center at Camp Hawthorne in northern Florida. Additional supporters and volunteers spread across three buildings, including two overflow rooms, brought the in-person total to roughly



Delegates of the Southwestern Union Conference elected Elton DeMoraes, as president during the 32nd constituency session held Sunday, April 26, at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. The session also elected incumbents Stephen Brooks as executive secretary and John Page as treasurer. [MORE](#)

4,300 attendees. [MORE](#)



After 44 years of dedicated service as a pastor and administrator, Gary Thurber, Mid-America Union Conference president, has announced plans to retire. Thurber shared his intentions with the MAUC executive committee on April 23, 2026, during a regularly scheduled meeting. He will continue to provide presidential leadership until the MAUC constituency session to be held in September of 2026. [MORE](#)



Christian Record Services has announced the launch of a

nationwide First Response

Initiative to address a critical gap in the medical system: the “Quiet Crisis” of vision loss. Supported by a newly awarded \$43,436 grant from the NAD Resource Development Committee, the initiative provides a tangible roadmap for the 8 million North Americans navigating irreversible vision loss due to diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy. [MORE](#)



Southwestern Adventist University announced on Jan. 30, that president Ana Patterson has shared her plans to complete her service as president, effective July 1, 2026, as she prepares to pursue new professional opportunities following five years of leadership. “Serving as president of Southwestern Adventist University has been one of the great honors of my life,” said Patterson. [MORE](#)

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

[Adventist Health Expands Robotic Surgical Capabilities in Hanford \(Calif.\)](#)

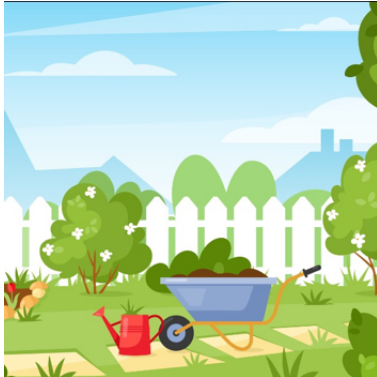
[Shady Grove Medical Center Earns a Leapfrog “A” Safety Grade, Completing Historic Sweep for Adventist Healthcare Hospitals \(Md.\)](#)

[Study: Egg Consumption Is Associated with a Lower Risk of Alzheimer’s Disease \(Calif.\)](#)

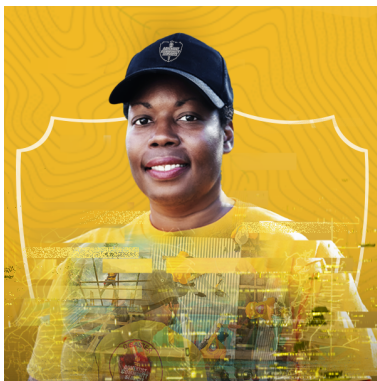
[Stroke Awareness Month With Adventist Health: Recognizing the Signs Could Save a Life \(Calif.\)](#)

[From Beds to Networks: AdventHealth Redefines Growth Strategy \(Fla.\)](#)

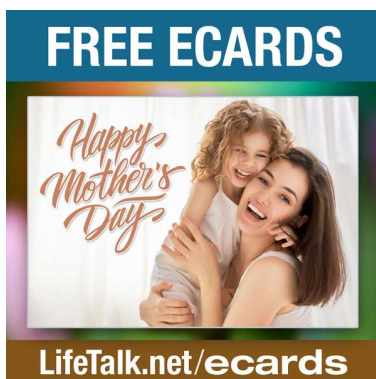
ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES



NAD NewsPoints will be not be published next week. We hope to get back on our weekly schedule, and until we do please check out the NAD's social media ([Facebook](#), Twitter (X), [Instagram](#)) for new content, or visit the NAD Homepage for [news](#) and much more. [Click here](#) to read/watch *Adventist Journey* magazine stories and videos.



ACS Disaster and Famine Relief Offering is May 9, 2026. You've seen the devastation disasters leave behind—homes destroyed, families displaced, communities shaken. This offering supports Adventist Community Services (ACS) Disaster Response as they step into these moments of crisis. Through your generosity, volunteers provide relief, resources, and hope to those in need. Whether you serve or give, you are part of a compassionate response that brings healing and restoration. [Click here](#) for information.



Mother's Day is just around the corner and LifeTalk Radio has created many beautiful cards for your enjoyment. LifeTalk has a dozen digital greeting cards designed especially for Mother's Day. So you can send her more than one! It takes less than a minute for you to visit [LifeTalk.net/eCards](#) and send your mother a FREE digital greeting card. It's so easy, just a few clicks and you're done. Be sure and watch the special 1-minute Mother's Day video at: [lifetalk.net/videos](#)

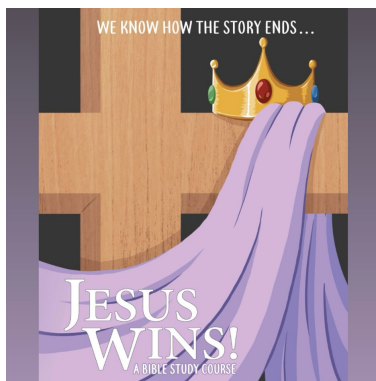
A storm is coming, and Scripture saw it coming



millennia ago. Join Voice of Prophecy Speaker/Director Pastor Ken Norton for *The Approaching Storm*. This seven-part series on last-day events, shares what the Bible says about the future and how we, as believers, can be ready. To watch the latest episode, visit theapproachingstorm.com.

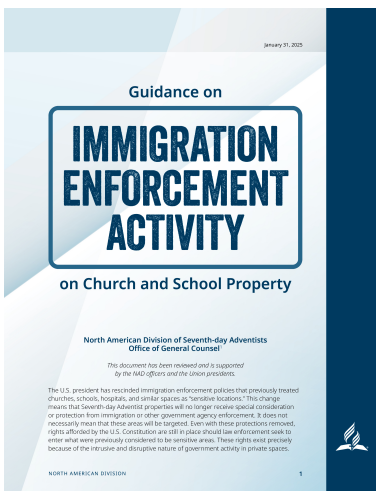
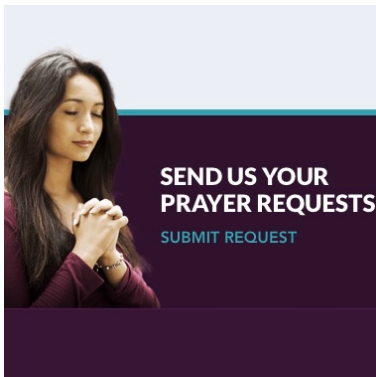


This quarter on It Is Written Sabbath School, join host Eric Flickinger and study author Nina Atcheson as they explore how to grow in a meaningful relationship with God. A new half-hour program is released every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Watch on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) or [It Is Written TV](http://ItIsWritten.tv).

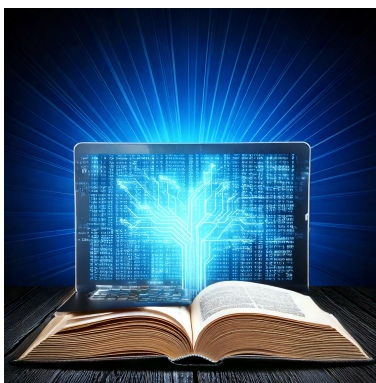


Get your free copy of *Jesus Wins!* This 10-lesson study guide by Jesus 101 is an excellent way to introduce your friends and family to Jesus, even inviting them to be baptized. Anyone can give Bible studies with this colorful and creative course. Available in both English and Spanish! For your free copy, download the Jesus 101 mobile app, click on “Book Offers”, and enter code “NAD-JW” for English or “NAD-JG” for Spanish (US only, one per household). Code valid thru May 31, 20

Are you in need of encouragement, hope, or prayer? Jesus 101’s prayer warriors would be honored to pray for your specific request. Our prayer team meets every Wednesday to pray over received prayer requests. Click [here](#) to submit your prayer request online.



The North American Division has provided for churches and schools the document entitled "Guidance on Immigration Enforcement Activity on Church and School Property." These guidelines, prepared by the NAD Office of General Counsel, have been reviewed — and is supported by — the NAD officers and union presidents. [CLICK HERE](#) for the guidelines in English. [Spanish-](#) and [French-](#)language versions have been published and all are also available under the [NAD website "Guidelines"](#) tab.



Take your ministry beyond the pulpit and into the digital world. This Adventist Learning Community course empowers pastors and church leaders to harness the power of AI tools to transform sermon content into engaging, shareable social media posts. You'll learn how to optimize sermon videos, design eye-catching visuals, and use online engagement tools to grow your church's digital presence. By the end of the course, you'll have the skills and confidence to combine AI technologies with creative strategies—amplifying your message, reaching new audiences, and spreading the gospel far beyond your local community. [LEARN MORE.](#)

Join us for an engaging discussion of religious freedom issues on our show Faith and Politics. From laws that impact faith communities to challenges facing religious organizations and

www.faithandpolitics.tv



communities around the world, our experienced panel of experts will provide thoughtful insight on these fundamental questions of liberty. Visit faithandpolitics.tv today!



There is a Quiet Crisis Happening in Plain Sight. We Aren't Supposed to Talk About It. It's not a crisis of faith. It's a crisis of profound isolation, affecting millions who suffer in silence while surrounded by their community. They are in our pews, in our neighborhoods, and in our families. Now, the story is finally being told. To find out more, watch the interview with Christian Record Services and 3ABN found here: <https://bit.ly/quietcrisisinterview>

EVENTS CALENDAR

May

- 02 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 09 [Disaster and Famine Relief](#)
- 16 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 23 [Local Conference Advance](#)
- 30 [Local Church Budget](#)

[Camp Meeting Calendar](#)

[Adventist Mission](#)

June

- 06 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 13 [NAD Women's Ministries](#)
- 20 [Local Church Budget](#)
- 27 [Local Conference Advance](#)

ADVENTIST JOURNEY



Cover: Harry Walker, prayer warrior and elder at Robbinsville Seventh-day Adventist Church, New Jersey

From the President's Desk "Many Voices, One Accord" by G. Alexander Bryant, p. 05

Cover Feature "The Adventist Journey of Harry Walker" by Art Brondo, pp. 06-07

Feature "When God Speaks Through Raindrops" by Kristina Busch, pp. 08-09

NAD Update "Young Adult LIFE Tour Culminates in the Carolinas" by Becky Carpenter, pp. 10-12

Healthcare Care Connections "Florida Adventists and AdventHealth Teams Provide Support to Hurricane-Affected

Interview "Staying Dynamic: Missionary Couple Reflect on 32 Years of Service," pp. 30-31

Feature "Making Disciples in Cambodia" by Dean Edwards, pp. 32-33

NAD Update "New Study Highlights the Church-Strengthening Impact of Adventist Colleges" by Ken Shaw, pp. 34-35

NAD News Briefs "SALT: It Is Written School of Evangelism Coming to Union Adventist University," "Walla Walla University Announces New Stackable M.Ed. Format," "Oakwood University Chief Information Security Officer Named Among Top Global CISOs," "Joe Wheeler, Author of More Than 100 Books, Passes to His Rest," "La Sierra University Fall Enrollment Jumps, Ending Multiyear Declines," "Southern Adventist University Awarded \$1.36 Million Grant for Student Support," pp. 36-40

Perspective "Blink, Adjust, and Move Forward" by Orna Garnett, p. 41

Pentecost 2025 Stories "God's Workings in the Southern and Southwestern Unions" by Carmen Patterson and Debbie Michel, pp. 42-43

Media, Multiply, Mentorship "A Look at Pentecost 2025 and Its Ongoing Impact,"

Families in Jamaica" by Elizabeth
Camps, pp. 14-15

pp. 44-45

*This magazine is mailed to Adventists in
North America; [click](#) to read the
March/April issue online.*

Adventist Review Section pp. 17-26

VIEWPOINTS



Yielding the Crop

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.' When he said this, he called out, "'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.'"

— *Luke 8:5-8, NIV*

NAD MEDIA MINISTRIES



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 Co

Southwestern Union Conference

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Vimeo](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

2026 North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists | 9705 Patuxent Woods Drive, Columbia, MD 21046
Kimberly Maran, director, NewsPoints editor | Christelle Agboka, news writer | Art Brondo, editorial/media producer



[Forward to a Friend](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [NewsPoints Archives and PDFs](#)
