

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Page

January - March 2026



Greetings From Our Lead Pastor and First Lady.

Dear All Nations family,

We are thankful to the communications department for producing this issue of our newsletter with a focus on our church motto, "Unity in Diversity." As such, it highlights the good news of the gospel of Christ that unites us with God and with each other. As usual, I was blessed in reading our newsletter.

No one is an island, standing alone. At the same time, even when we stand together, we are not sufficient in ourselves. Our sufficiency is God standing with us (2 Corinthians 3:5). It is wonderful to hear, with ears of faith (Romans 10:17), God saying: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Again, it is good news to hear God's word informing us that God's grace also includes his provision for the financial resources that we need in order to do the work he calls us to do at the All Nations Church.

"God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."
"Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God" (2 Corinthians 9:8, 10-11).

If you are able, please continue to use the QR code on the last page of this newsletter to make online contributions to support the work of God through the All Nations Church. In the name of Jesus, we are praying for you, that the good news of the gospel announced in our newsletter will keep you close to God and close to each other. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Martin and Henrietta Hanna.



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ANC COMMUNICATION
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WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to this edition of our church newsletter!

We are grateful for another opportunity to reflect on all that God has done in our community. As you turn these pages, you'll find highlights from the events and moments that have brought us together: times of worship, fellowship, service, and growth. Each gathering has been a reminder that we are not just individuals, but a connected body, moving forward in faith and purpose.

This newsletter also includes a collection of articles designed to inspire, inform, and encourage your spiritual journey. Whether you are revisiting recent memories or discovering something new, our hope is that every section draws you closer to God and to one another.

As you read, may you be reminded of the power of community, the beauty of shared experiences, and the faithfulness of God in every season. Thank you for being a vital part of this church family.

With gratitude and blessings,
All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church

Our “Love Is the Greatest” Banquet Brings Community Together To Strengthen In- House & Outreach Ministries

By Joseth Howell

More than 100 guests gathered on February 14, 2026, for “Love Is the Greatest: An Evening of Elegance Banquet,” hosted by the All Nations Church. As the church’s first fundraising event of the year, the banquet brought families and community members together for an evening centered on love, fellowship, and shared purpose. The event supports both in-house and outreach ministries, including the church’s food pantry, which serves approximately 600 individuals annually; health and wellness programs focused on disease prevention and whole-person well-being; a scholarship fund for students attending Adventist institutions; and ongoing repairs and maintenance of the church facility. Senior Pastor Dr. Martin Hanna welcomed attendees and shared the church’s vision, introducing ministry leaders who oversee its various initiatives.



“Strengthening families through intentional ministry initiatives is foundational to building a stronger community,” he noted. “When families are supported, the entire community benefits.”



Guests enjoyed a red-carpet entrance and professional photography against a shimmering backdrop. Inside, candlelit tables, soft lighting, and music created an elegant setting for dining and fellowship. The emceed event featured heartfelt tributes and musical dedications from spouses, celebrating enduring commitment. Highlights included recognition of the longest-married couple in attendance and a “best dressed” vote at each table, adding a fun, lighthearted element that encouraged camaraderie.

A proclamation from Dr. Abraham Henry, President of the Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was presented by Associate Pastor Clifford Wallace commending the church for its steadfast commitment to the welfare of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Brigette Hinds, banquet project director, expressed gratitude to all who made the evening possible.

“The banquet’s goal was to bring families together to drive meaningful community impact,” she said. “We are deeply thankful for our volunteers, community partners, and local businesses whose support helped bring this vision to life.”



Church leaders plan to make the banquet an annual tradition to continue strengthening families, expanding ministries, and increasing outreach efforts throughout the community.

To learn more about and support the church’s outreach initiatives, visit [here](#) or scan the QR code.



Games Night

By Frankel Francois

The games night at All Nations was a good experience for me because, for the first time, I was asked to referee a basketball game. It was a three on three tournament which had elimination stages involved. I must say it was challenging at first but as the night went on I became more comfortable.

The youth who participated enjoyed themselves. As a matter of fact, they were helping me to make the right calls on the basketball court. We had four teams participating. The Red Birds (a female team), the Unstoppables, the Phoenix, and the Elite.

They all played well. The games were fast-paced and competitive, with players hustling up and down the court while friends and family cheered from the sidelines. Every shot, pass, and rebound brought excitement, creating an atmosphere that was both spirited and welcoming. The most important thing for me was that there were no injuries experienced by the players. I thank God for protecting them.

Beyond the court, there was something for everyone. Tables were set up for dominoes, where intense matches drew crowds just as lively as at the basketball games. Nearby, ping pong players showed off quick reflexes and friendly rivalries, while others enjoyed classic board games that encouraged conversation and connection.

People were drawn to the food stand by the aroma of freshly made cuisine. A range of handmade meals and snacks were offered by volunteers, strengthening the sense of camaraderie and community. To eat, laugh, and tell stories, people congregated around tables.

Ultimately, the game night was more than simply a competitive event; it was a chance for the church community to get together, have fun, and build stronger bonds.





March Gladness (Games Night) Highlights



Raising Children for True Success

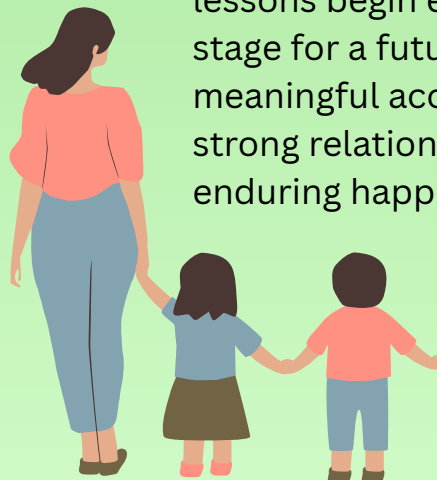
By Joseth Howell

When people speak of success, it is often framed around and measured by wealth or, for children, by academic performance. A child who earns straight As may be seen as succeeding, but true markers of success go far beyond grades. To know whether children are truly thriving, we must consider their holistic well-being: character, mental health, emotional stability, and physical health. More important than grades is character. Teaching children values that last into adulthood lays the foundation for long-term success and shapes all areas of life.

Children are an inheritance from God, a precious gift entrusted to parents (Psalm 127:3). Recognizing this reminds us that raising them is a sacred responsibility. Children raised to revere God, be respectful and responsible, learn to value their parents and authority, reaping

blessings that extend far beyond the immediate. They develop a strong work ethic, often translating into high academic performance, and gain the ability to make wise decisions.

Children who are taught to think critically, respect themselves, understand their self-worth, exercise self-control, set healthy boundaries, and live with integrity are better equipped to choose friends and eventually spouses who would add value to their lives, positively influencing them, rather than detracting from them or becoming liabilities. These lessons begin early and set the stage for a future filled with meaningful accomplishments, strong relationships, and enduring happiness.



ALL NATIONS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

How to Maximize The Chances Of Raising Successful Children

1. Cultivate Relationships: Talk with your children regularly and ask open-ended questions that go beyond yes-or-no answers. Explore what made their day good or challenging, and listen carefully. Children who feel heard are more likely to make wise choices about friends, what they watch and listen to, and daily habits.



2. Know Where Your Children Are: Children, including teenagers, need guidance and supervision. Attend church together rather than having them worship separately or sit apart from the family, even at the same church, to ensure they are practicing and learning values consistent with your family's beliefs. Pay attention to their friendships and what their friends' families stand for.



3. Have Home Worship: Family worship instills God-centered values, encourages honest conversations about life, and strengthens family bonds. These shared moments create a foundation for both moral and spiritual growth.

4. Praise and Discipline Appropriately: Celebrate accomplishments intentionally as you address misbehavior. Balanced praise and consistent discipline teach accountability and help children internalize the principles of right and wrong.

5. Pray for Them: Commit your children to God daily, asking Him to guide their decisions and choices and to protect them.

The Benefits of Play

By Samuel Howell

Have you ever wondered how playing benefits you? Play is much more than just fun. It helps you grow socially, emotionally, and physically.

Play helps you make friends and get along with others. When you play, you learn how to make friends, work together, how to share, take turns, and communicate. You may meet new people while playing, or you may become closer to friends you already have.

Play also reduces stress. When you play, your body releases a hormone called endorphins, which makes you feel happy and relaxed. That is why you may find yourself laughing and feeling joyful during play, and even after the play ends. As a result, you may feel less worried and upset than before you started.

Additionally, children who play regularly tend to deal with stress better as they grow older. Adults who had time to play when they were young are often less stressed than adults who did not. This demonstrates that playing isn't just fun, but it also keeps your mind healthy. A healthy mind helps you do well in school.



Playing makes your body healthier. Sports like basketball and soccer involve running and jumping, which are good for your heart and lungs. When you play outside in the sun, your body makes vitamin D, which makes your bones strong and your teeth healthy. Playing regularly can also help you build strong muscles to keep your body in shape and maintain a healthy weight, so your body works better overall.

Finally, our ability to play reminds us of God's love and care. Play allows us to be joyful, which is a Fruit of the Spirit. God wants to enjoy life abundantly, and play is one way we do that while keeping our minds healthy and ready to worship Him.

Samuel Howell is a National Honor Society Student and a seventh grade student, and aspires to be a physician.

Find Us Faithful: A Black History Month Reflection on the Legacy of Black Americans in the Seventh-day Adventist Church

By Pastor Hugh Mckenzie

The song “Find Us Faithful” has long stood as one of the most cherished anthems in contemporary Christian and gospel music. Sung by Steve Green and written by Jon Mohr, its message is a stirring call to live lives of devotion that illuminate the path for those who follow. This theme of legacy provides a fitting lens through which to honor the remarkable contributions of Black individuals who have shaped—and continue to shape—the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Early Pioneers of Faith and Courage

William H. Green: A Trailblazer in Church Leadership

William Hawkins Green was born near Lewisburg, North Carolina, on December 20, 1871.



He became a Seventh-day Adventist in the early 1900s through the evangelism of Lewis C. Sheafe. In 1905, he left his lucrative legal practice to serve the church.

In 1918, he was elected as the Director of the North American Negro Conference Ministry. He was the first African American to hold this position; previously, the department had been led by white administrators.

During his tenure (1918–1928), the church saw substantial growth among African Americans, particularly as thousands moved into urban centers during the Great Migration.

William Hawkins Green pastored influential congregations in Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Detroit.

William Ellis Foy: A Forerunner of Adventist Prophetic Voices

William Ellis Foy (also “Foye”) was born sometime around 1818 to black parents Joseph and Elizabeth (Betsey) in Kennebec County, Maine, just north of Augusta. William Foy was a black Free Will Baptist minister who had religious visions and shared them at Millerite gatherings from 1842-1845. Seventh-day Adventists hold that he was the first of three individuals to receive divine visions during this period, followed by Hazen Foss and Ellen G. White.

After the Great Disappointment, William Foy moved east to Sullivan, Maine. There is no account that he knew about or rejected some of the later major doctrines discovered, such as the Sabbath. He continued faithfully ministering in the Freewill Baptist Church until his death. William Foy is a visible representation of faithful blacks who have been a part of and helped shape the Advent movement from its inception.

Lucille Byard: A Tragedy That Sparked Structural Change

The death of Lucille (Spence) Byard (1877-1943) after being refused treatment at an Adventist hospital was a catalyst for the organization of regional conferences. The story of Lucille (Lucy) marks a painful but pivotal moment in Adventist history.

This transition began with a tragic event in 1943 when, as a light-skinned Black Adventist woman, Lucy was denied treatment at Washington Adventist Sanitarium once the doctors learned that she was Black.

The African American leadership of the church organized, demanding that they have an opportunity to place themselves in a position to be treated as equals and respected as human beings. As a result, between 1944 and 1946, five conferences were established and led by Black leadership.

Mabel Branch: Educator, Missionary, Pioneer

Mabel Branch was the first African American public-school teacher in the state of Colorado, and she, along with her parents, Thomas and Henrietta Branch, became the first black missionaries sent to Africa by the Seventh-day Adventist church.

On November 1, 1922, Mabel Branch, at age 43, married 49-year-old widower Seymour Webb in Watts, California

Mabel Branch Webb left a legacy of pioneering excellence and courageous, sacrificial service for Christ, helping to establish a foundation for Adventism in Central Africa.

Charles M. Kinney: First Ordained Black Adventist Minister

Charles Kinney (1855–1951) attended an evangelistic service conducted by J. N. Loughborough and accepted the Seventh-day Adventist faith. He became the first Black member of the Reno, Nevada, church.

Subsequently, after two years of attendance at Healdsburg College (1883–1885), he entered the colporteur work in Kansas. Kinney was assigned by the General Conference in 1889 to work in Louisville, Kentucky, and was ordained the same year, being the first Black SDA to be ordained as a Pastor.

Kinney retired in 1911. His ministry led to other Black American Seventh-day Adventists making a significant impact in the world and in the Church.

Modern Leaders Who Expanded the Vision

Dr. Charles Edward Bradford: A Historic Administrator

Dr. Charles Edward Bradford (1925–2021) was a transformative figure in Seventh-day Adventist history, serving as a powerful advocate for administrative equity and the mission of the church in North America.

His career is marked by several historic milestones:

- 1946: Graduated from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), a historically Black Seventh-day Adventist institution that has produced many of the church's most influential leaders.
- 1961: Elected President of the Lake Region Conference. His leadership at the local conference level provided a foundation for his later work in national and international administration.
- 1970: Appointed Associate Secretary of the General Conference. This role placed him within the highest levels of the global church's administrative body.

• 1979: Elected the first African American President of the North American Division (NAD). He served in this capacity until 1990, during which time he worked to strengthen the identity of the NAD and its relationship with the global church.

Dr. Bradford was widely respected for his eloquent preaching, his mentorship of younger ministers, and his commitment to the "Regional" conference system, which grew significantly under his influence. His legacy remains a cornerstone of the church's organizational structure in North America today.

Dr. Ella Louise Smith Simmons: A Barrier-Breaking Administrator

Dr. Ella Louise Smith Simmons (Ed.D., Auburn University) is a trailblazing educator and administrator whose career reached the highest levels of global leadership within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Her election to the office of General Vice President of the General Conference in 2005 marked a historic shift in the church's administrative landscape. Her professional journey reflects a steady ascent through academic and

ecclesiastical leadership:

- 1990s: Served as the Chair of the Department of Education at Kentucky State University, where she established her reputation as a dedicated educator.
- 1997: Appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs at Oakwood University. Her leadership at this historically Black Seventh-day Adventist institution was a key step in her transition to denominational administration.
- 2000: Became Provost at La Sierra University, further expanding her experience in higher education management.
- 2005: Elected as the first female General Vice President of the General Conference. This role made her one of the top-ranking officials in the global Seventh-day Adventist Church, which oversees millions of members worldwide.
- 2010 & 2015: Re-elected to her position, demonstrating the church's continued confidence in her leadership and strategic vision.
- 2022: Officially retired after 17 years of service at the General Conference level.

Dr. E. E. Cleveland: Evangelist and Social Advocate

Earl Edward Cleveland was one of the greatest Christian evangelists of the 20th century, a man who combined soul-winning with concern for social justice. He pioneered the concept of national evangelism campaigns--providing the template for the satellite-linked international campaigns of today--and held large gospel gatherings in the major cities of the world during the urban crisis of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Dr Cleveland's largest meeting, and the most extensive evangelistic outreach by the church to that date, took place in 1967. By the end of the meetings in Trinidad, 1,000 persons had been baptized. E. E. Cleveland was born in Huntsville, Alabama.

Pastor C. D. Brooks: The Voice of Breath of Life

Pastor Charles Decatur (C.D.) Brooks (1930-2016) was a towering figure in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, renowned for his mastery of biblical expository preaching and his pioneering work in media ministry.

His legacy is defined by his ability to articulate complex theological truths with clarity, authority, and deep conviction.

The Voice of "Breath of Life"

In 1974, Pastor Brooks became the founding speaker for **Breath of Life**, the first Seventh-day Adventist television ministry specifically produced for African American audiences. This was a landmark achievement in religious broadcasting, providing a culturally relevant platform for sharing Adventist messages.

The influence of Pastor Brooks extended far beyond the television screen:

- **International Reach:** His sermons were broadcast throughout North America, the Caribbean, and Africa, making him a household name in the global Adventist community.
- **Church Planting:** Under his leadership, the *Breath of Life* ministry was responsible for founding 15 churches, creating lasting spiritual communities.

- Soul Winning: His evangelistic campaigns were exceptionally fruitful, resulting in the baptism of over 20,000 people during his tenure.

Dr. Ben Carson: Medical Pioneer and Public Servant

Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson Sr. (born 1951) is a world-renowned retired pediatric neurosurgeon and a prominent member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is widely recognized for his pioneering medical achievements and his later transition into American public and political life.

His career is defined by a series of extraordinary professional and civic milestones:

- 1973: Graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in Psychology.
- 1977: Graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School, embarking on a career in medicine that would lead him to the forefront of neurosurgery.
- 1984: Appointed Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. At age 33, he became the youngest major division director in the hospital's history.

- 1987: Led a 70-member surgical team in the first successful separation of occipital craniopagus twins (twins joined at the back of the head). This landmark 22-hour operation made him a global household name.

• 2008: Received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, presented by President George W. Bush for his contributions to medicine and his work inspiring young people.

• 2017–2021: Served as the 17th U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), overseeing federal programs designed to help Americans with their housing needs and improve communities.

• 2021: Founded the American Cornerstone Institute, a non-partisan non-profit organization focused on promoting faith, liberty, community, and life.

Dr. Carson's journey from a challenging childhood in Detroit to becoming a world-class surgeon and a member of the U.S. Cabinet is a story frequently cited as an example of the "American Dream." He remains a highly influential figure within both the medical community and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dr. Barry Black: Chaplain to the Nation

Dr. Barry Black is a distinguished leader whose career spans the highest levels of military and civic service. As a retired Rear Admiral and the 62nd Chaplain of the United States Senate, he has made history as both the first African American and the first Seventh-day Adventist to serve in this capacity.

His extensive academic background provided a multidisciplinary foundation for his ministry and leadership. Dr Black holds several degrees.

- Master of Arts in Religion from Liberty University.
- Master of Divinity from Andrews University.
- Ph.D. in Psychology from United States International University.
- Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Black's life and work represent a unique intersection of military discipline, academic rigor, and spiritual leadership.

He remains a prominent voice in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a respected figure in the American public square.

A Legacy Worth Following

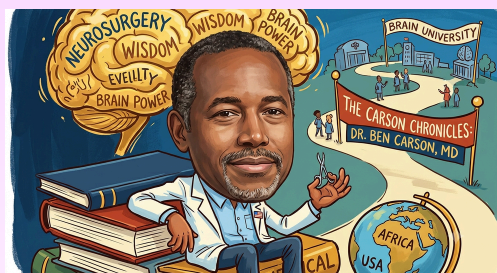
The legacy of these prominent Black American Seventh-day Adventists is a legacy that we cherish. May the words of the song "Find Us Faithful" motivate us to follow in their footsteps while keeping our eyes on Jesus.

The Lyrics of the gospel song mentioned above state, "Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way."

These words echo through the lives of the pioneers and leaders highlighted. Their faith, courage, and service have shaped the Adventist Church and inspired generations. Their stories call us not only to remember but to emulate, to live in such a way that those who follow will find in us the same devotion, conviction, and faithfulness.

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The Joy of Fellowship

By Pastor Hugh Mckenzie

It was Charles Wesley who said, “I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field.”

But what is fellowship? In the New Testament, the Greek word for fellowship, *koinonia*, refers to “association,” “communion,” “participation,” or a “sharing (in something).” It refers to mutual sharing in some blessing or experience.

In the New Testament the term is used to express the concept of joint participation in such experiences as sharing or participating together in the blessings of the gospel (Philippians 1:5) The word is particularly found in passages that refer to the close relationship that Christians experience with God (1 Jn 1:3), with Christ (1 Jn 1:3; 1 Cor 1:9), with the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 13:14, RSV), and with fellow believers (1 Jn 1:3, 7).



In addition to its usual meaning, *koinōnia* was used by the early church to describe the act of sharing one’s temporal blessings with fellow believers (2 Cor 8:4); as such, it may appropriately be translated “contribution” (Rom 15:26; 2 Cor 9:13, RSV).

The early church in Acts 2:41-47 was a true picture of what true fellowship in the church is like. The Bible says the following about the church in Acts 2:41-47.

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

What helped unify the believers in Christian fellowship in the early church was the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was present in the lives of the believers. The Holy was present in the church in a real and significant way. Not only were the apostles empowered, but believers were empowered by the Holy Spirit as well.

During that notable sermon that the apostle Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, he said (Acts 2: 38-39):
38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

The believers were baptized, and they received the endowment of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives individually as members and collectively as a church is absolutely essential if we are to have fellowship and continue to have fellowship in the church, the body of Christ.

“When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the day of Pentecost will fall on us.” Testimonies for the Church, 8:246.

The Holy Spirit unites us in fellowship. According to Galatians 5:22, the fruit of the Spirit is love. Therefore, love for God and our fellowmen, including our brothers and sisters in Christ, will enhance our experience of healthy relationships as a church.

The seeming state of peace in our part of the world today creates the false sense that we can make it as a members of the church without needing fellowship. We have what we need to survive without fellowship. We have our houses, our cars, our jobs, recourse to medical services. We can contact relatives and family members instantly on WhatsApp, by email or by a phone call. We have banks and other lending institutions if we need money in a hurry. We have so many choices of places to live in, if our surrounding are not to our liking.

Consequently, we can find ourselves living by the adage, "I, myself, me and mine, we four and no more." However, as Christians, we are called into fellowship and to fellowship one with another, even if it seems that we can survive without the fellowship of the church.

The other element that fostered unity and fellowship in the early church was the fact that the Church was actively involved in witnessing. It is said that the most miserable man is a soldier without a war. And sometimes, when there is no engagement or war, perhaps unconsciously, we turn the guns on

ourselves and create skirmishes and redirect our energies to that which feels like "war." The only problem is that we focus on the wrong enemy. Of course, the gates of hell and Satan and his angels are the real enemy of the body of Christ.

We witness so that people may have a relationship or fellowship with Jesus, and we, together with them, have fellowship with Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3 states, "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

The Great Commission is the task around which we gather and the context that fosters unity and fellowship. Someone said, "Fellowship is not just about being together; it is about being together for something."

The Robbers Cave Experiment is a classic in social psychology because it proved that prejudice isn't just about "bad people." It's often a result of environmental competition. Conversely, it proved that **fellowship** isn't just about "being nice"—it's a result of shared necessity.

For the experiment at Robbers Cave State Park in Oklahoma, Muzafer Sherif and his team recruited 22 boys (12 years old, from similar backgrounds) and divided them into two groups: the **Eagles** and the **Rattlers**. The experiment unfolded in three distinct stages.

Firstly, the groups were kept separate for one week. During that week, they hiked, swam, and engaged in cooperative activities within their own teams. The result was that each group developed its own culture, nicknames, and "toughness" standards. The lesson learned was that shared identity forms quickly when a group has a private space and a common internal mission.

Secondly, the researchers introduced the two groups to each other and set up a series of competitive tournaments (baseball, tug-of-war, etc.) with a trophy and prizes for the winners. The result was that relationships deteriorated instantly. The boys began name-calling, burning each other's flags, and raiding cabins.

Even though the boys were from similar backgrounds, they perceived the other group as inferior & hostile. This shows that competition for limited resources (or status) creates "out-group" bias, destroying the possibility of broader fellowship.

Thirdly, this was the most critical part of the study. Sherif tried simply bringing the boys together for "pleasant" activities like watching a movie. It failed; they just used the time to insult each other.

Then, the researchers created **Superordinate** Goals—problems that neither group could solve alone. **The researcher created a water crisis.** The camp's water supply "failed". It was sabotaged by the researchers. Both groups of boys had to inspect the line and work together to find the clog. Another problem was that a truck carrying food for the camp "broke down." Both groups had to use a heavy rope to pull it together to get it started.

As a result, the attitude of the boys was transformed **from "They" to "We"**. As the boys worked toward the common purposes or goals

mentioned above, hostility vanished. By the end of the camp, the Eagles and Rattlers requested to eat their meals together, the Rattlers used their prize money to buy malts for the Eagles, and they all insisted on riding home on the same bus.

The "connective tissue" was the interdependence among the boys. When my success depends on your effort, my brain stops categorizing you as an "other" and starts seeing you as a part of "me."

The Robbers Cave Experiment proves that fellowship is a functional outcome of shared goals. In other words, you [we] don't build fellowship by telling people to "be friends." You [we] build it by giving them a mission that requires them to rely on one another.

God has given the church the Great Commission as the task that we rally around together, to be the reason for interdependence, to foster fellowship, and the spirit of goodwill.

"The effort to bless others will result in blessings upon ourselves. This was the purpose of God in giving us a part to act in the plan of redemption... As we work to help others, we are brought into a closer connection with God and with one another." Testimonies for the Church, 9:102.

The fact of the matter is that we cannot have fellowship with one another if we don't have fellowship with Jesus. **1 John 4:20** states, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

The classic example is seen in the life of King Saul, who was envious of David (1 Samuel 18:9). He hunted him down like an animal to murder him (1 Samuel 24:14, 1 Samuel 26:20). Additionally, King Saul gave the order to kill eighty-five Priests of God. He did not stop there, but also killed their wives and children 1 Samuel 22:18,19.

Saul disregarded his relationship with his fellow men and separated himself from God so much so that when, in his unrepentant heart, he turned to God for help when the Philistine forces were gathering against Israel, God did not answer him.

The Bible records in 1 Samuel 28:5, “And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. (6) And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams nor by Urim, nor by prophets.

James Packer writes, “Christian fellowship is two-dimensional, and it has to be vertical before it can be horizontal. We must know the reality of fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ before we can know the reality of fellowship with each other in our common relationship to God (1 John 1:3). The person who is not in fellowship with the Father and the Son is no Christian at all, and so cannot share with Christians the realities of their fellowship.” *Your Father Loves You*, by James Packer, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.

Sin, especially secret sin, destroys fellowship and renders the church powerless to meet the needs of the saints within and the spiritual challenges that attend the execution of the Great Commission without.

Concerning the disciples, Luke 22:24, states: “There was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.” The selection of the three disciples to accompany Jesus to the mountain had excited the jealousy of the nine. Instead of strengthening their faith by prayer and meditation on the words of Christ, they dwelt on their discouragements and grievances. In this state of darkness they had undertaken the conflict with Satan.

The disciples failed to be witnesses to Christ because of the sins among them and could not be used by God to deliver a boy from demon possession. Lack of fellowship and disunity gives Satan the upper hand and gives him room to derail the success of the Great Commission. God hates attempts that disturb the fellowship in the body of Christ.

"We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of meeting together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by the sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our association as Christians, we lose much by a lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not filling the position that God designed he should." *Steps to Christ*, 101

Conclusion: This is not a subtle recommendation, however I sometimes wonder what positive differences will follow if we change the name of our church from the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church to the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship."

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Unity in Diversity in Christ

By Albert White

The motto of the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church says: “Unity in Diversity in Christ.” This motto reflects the biblical vision of the church as one body made up of many members with different gifts and backgrounds.

The Bible teaches, in 1 Corinthians 12, that although as believers we have different roles, we are united by one Spirit and one purpose. Diversity within the church is therefore not a challenge for us to overcome but a strength that reflects God’s design for His people.

For a multicultural congregation like All Nations, this principle becomes especially important as departments work together in ministry. Each department, whether Culinary, Music, Sabbath School, Family Life, Pantry, or Personal Ministries, plays a vital role in the life of the church.

When all ministries collaborate in planning and execution, then we create a stronger and more effective ministry. Cooperation, communication, and mutual support ensure that activities complement rather than compete with one another.

Above all, the mission must remain central to every program and initiative. It is what the church is called to do. Jesus’s commission in Matthew 28:19–20 reminds the church that its ultimate purpose is to make disciples and share the gospel.

Ellen White posited in *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9, “The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world.”

When departments unite around this mission, the church reflects the spirit of heaven described in Revelation 7:9, where people from every nation and culture worship together before God. Unity in diversity, grounded in Christ, enables the church to serve more effectively and witness more powerfully to the world.



Choosing Grace When Relationships Hurt

By Victor Khaula



In today's families and church communities, conflict and emotional wounds often blur the line between forgiveness and reconciliation. Clarifying the difference is essential for spiritual health. Forgiveness is a personal act of grace that reflects Christ's character; reconciliation is a shared process that depends on the willingness of both parties.

Scripture defines the limit of human responsibility. Paul urges, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Rom. 12:18, NIV). Believers are called to pursue peace actively, yet they cannot compel another person to reconcile. Forgiveness, however, remains non-negotiable: "Bear with each other and forgive ... as the Lord forgave you" (Col. 3:13, NIV).

Ellen G. White underscores this witness: "The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian." Forgiveness embodies that transformation.

Adventist theologian Ángel Manuel Rodríguez describes forgiveness as central to Christian identity, rooted in God's redemptive work and illustrated in the sanctuary, where pardon restored both divine fellowship and communal harmony.²

Other scholars highlight the complexity. Miroslav Volf argues that genuine reconciliation requires truth-telling and justice, not mere sentiment.³ Lewis Smedes notes that forgiveness releases bitterness and frees the heart even when trust has not yet been rebuilt.⁴ Thus, forgiveness liberates the individual; reconciliation rebuilds the relationship.

For All Nations SDA Church, this distinction is practical. Members are invited to choose peace after misunderstandings, to reach out despite tension, and to reject gossip. Reconciliation may require honest dialogue, humility, and time, and it cannot be achieved alone. What remains within our control is to reflect Christ's character.

As a diverse congregation, we have a unique opportunity to demonstrate the healing power of grace. By committing to forgive, pursuing peace, and entrusting outcomes to God, we strengthen both our fellowship and our witness to Christ's love.

Endnotes

¹ Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press, 1905), 470.

² Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, "Forgiveness and Christian Relationships," *Adventist Review*.

³ Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996), 125.

⁴ Lewis B. Smedes, *Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1984), 88.

ANC VISION FOR 2026



Dr. Brigitte G. Hinds
President

Brigette Hinds holds the Doctorate in Public Health Education (DrPH) from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. She holds a Master of Arts degree (MA) in Educational Administration and Leadership and a Specialist in Education degree (EdS) in Educational Administration from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Dr. Hinds launched the Charlotte Educational Services Consortium (CESC) in 2013 to provide consultancy services on global social issues. Consequent to collaboration with policy makers from government bodies, and specialists from academia, she continues to raise awareness as to the realities faced by persons with disabilities. In collaboration with Andrews University, Loma Linda University, and Link2Learn International Education Services, LLC, she has developed a professional diploma in special education based on needs assessments conducted in the Caribbean. She returns to CESC to develop education services in the special education space.

Dear All Nations Church Family,

It is with a deep sense of homecoming that I accept the nomination of First Elder of the Berrien Springs All Nations SDA Church. At the behest of my mentor, Mrs. Marjorie Lashley, I find myself already engaged in the mission of our church in the areas of Church offices as Nominating Committee Chair and of Church finances as Finance Committee Co-chair.

As First Elder, God commands me to join the first mission and that to His church: to know His children, their needs and challenges, competencies and opportunities. It is my pledge to join our pastors, elders, and deacons in visiting every member family.

Mission notwithstanding, our church has vision as its historical lodestone. This visioning is the lifeblood of our gathering in rhythms that both respond to needs and launch our purposes. The vision I must share, the mission I must join.

As First Elder, God commands my vision: to develop His congregation into an evangelistic force: a Center of Influence in the Village of Berrien Springs and, in ever widening reach to the Andrews University community, the area churches, the townships and civil societies.

My family, Colin and Givan Hinds, join our ANC Family in this together mission and vision.

Love always,
Dr. Brigitte G. Hinds
First Elder

IMPORTANT NOTICES

ALL NATIONS SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

USE THE CODES BELOW TO DONATE TO THE
CHURCH OR TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

ONLINE GIVING



PAYPAL ACCOUNT



CHURCH WEBSITE



Come join us every Saturday for these services

SABBATH SCHOOL STARTS: 10:30 AM

PREACHING STARTS AT 11:45 AM