

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES

THE **ADVENTIST**  
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**CHAPLAIN**



# CHAPLAINCY: “THE LAST FRONTIER OF MINISTRY BEYOND CHURCH WALLS”



One of the most recognized English dictionaries defines

the word chaplain as “a priest or other Christian religious leader who performs religious services for a military group (such as the army) or for a prison, hospital, etc.”<sup>1</sup> By definition, the chaplain ministers outside and or beyond the walls of the church and includes clergies of religions other than Christians.

In the 4th century, chaplains (Latin *cappellani*) were so called because they kept St. Martin’s famous half cape (*cappella*, diminutive of *cappa*). This sacred relic gave its name to the tent, and later to the simple oratory or chapel where it was preserved. To it were added other relics that were guarded by chaplains appointed by the king, during the Merovingian and Carolingian periods, and particularly during the reign of Charlemagne, who appointed clerical ministers (*capellani*) who lived within the royal palace. In addition

## PERSPECTIVE

By Mario Ceballos, D.Min., BCC

Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries—General Conference

to their primary duty of guarding the sacred relics, they also said mass for the king on feast days, worked in conjunction with the royal notaries, and wrote any documents the king required of them. In their duties chaplains thus gradually became more identified with direct service to the monarch as advisers in both ecclesiastical and secular matters.

In modern usage the term *chaplain* is used more for institutions and corporate bodies—such as cemeteries, prisons, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, embassies, legations, and armed forces.<sup>2</sup>

Today, chaplains are appointed by and serve as advisors to the “principals” of the institution where they work. Increasingly, chaplains are ministers called to serve in what I call the last frontiers of ministries. In most cases those that are cared for by the chaplains do not belong to the the faith of the chaplains or have no faith at all. Chaplains minister to people in the middle of crises and success such as but no limited to:

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- Facing a terminal illness.
- The loss of a loved on.
- A life changing disease.
- The long arm of justice and a long or life sentence to atone for the crime committed.
- Imprisonment for the first time.
- Freedom from imprisonment to uncertain and changed world.
- School final exams
- Failure in school
- Failure in a relationship
- Success in school
- Stress of combat
- Moral injury caused by war
- Facing ethical and moral dilemmas
- All types of critical incidents and events
- Birth, marriages, and death

The list goes on and on. As pioneers and explorers, chaplains in the frontiers of ministry need to be equipped and ready to minister to the unknown. At the same time, they must face the fact that they themselves are human and not exempt of the same conundrums than those to whom they minister.

It is important to remember that God is always in control and He can be trusted when in trouble.

My son's favorite verse as he was growing up was, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."<sup>3</sup> For some reason when he was a child, he found refuge in these words and on his own he found them and chose them to recite when asked what was his favorite Bible passage.

May you find encouragement and inspiration in the articles of this issue of *The Adventist Chaplain* and may God bless your ministry always.

1 <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chaplain>

2 <http://www.britannica.com/topic/chaplain>

3 John 16:33 (KJV)

## WHAT'S



Please share what is happening with chaplaincy in your part of the world.

- Send it to [ACMEditor@gc.adventist.org](mailto:ACMEditor@gc.adventist.org)
- Copy your Union and Division ACM Directors.
- Include your email and phone number.



# ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES *ON THE MOVE*

By Dr. Mario E. Ceballos and Deena Bartel-Wagner

**G**ains and growth are always to be celebrated. During 2015, this has been a part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM). As the outgrowth of a taskforce, ACM grew into a full department at the General Conference. During those 30 years, ACM responded to the changes and growth in chaplaincy. It played a significant role in raising profile of chaplaincy in the Adventist church worldwide.

Today, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries is responsible for chaplaincy, the Adventist Chaplaincy Institute, the World Service Organization, and Public Campus Ministries. During the next five years, each of these areas will undergo

expansion to advance the mission of telling the story of Jesus to others.

## *ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES* ➔

ACM was established to develop support for Adventist chaplains by fostering training and endorsement, promoting chaplaincy, and attracting individuals to minister as chaplains.

It is now time to look to the future and the continued growth of the Adventist chaplain corps. The outlook is bright for chaplaincy in general, and for Adventist chaplains in particular.

The recognition of chaplaincy by the world church is gaining momentum. Guidelines for endorsement are being developed at the division level for chaplains



who practice their ministry within those territories. Three divisions have written and established criteria for endorsement. Additionally, Clinical Pastoral Education centers have been established for training in two divisions. The first cohort for a Masters in Chaplaincy at Adventist University of Africa was conducted in the fall of 2015.

How will professionalism of Adventist chaplains worldwide develop? Capacity-building is normally defined as a skill and knowledge which is transferred from a parent organization to the local level. The question of how capacity-building will occur at all levels, including Division, Unions, Conferences must be addressed.

Each world division will need

to establish a working policy, standard operating procedures, and endorsement requirements that are pertinent to their field. These working policy and standard operating procedures will help clarify and guide the division and union as chaplaincy expands in the region. The endorsement requirements will give chaplains the structure they need in their professional development. These documents will also help to establish ACM as an integral part of the Adventist church in each region of the world.

Training and education will play a vital role in the advancement of chaplains. The requirements of educational degrees, pastoral experience, and clinical training will strengthen the ministry of chaplains.

The organization of graduate level degrees in chaplaincy at Adventist universities will play a critical role in the education of chaplains. Opportunities for chaplains to be educated in their home divisions will expand the prospects of a professionally trained chaplaincy.

## **ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY INSTITUTE** →

The importance of education and continued training cannot be emphasized too strongly. In response to the needs and requests worldwide, the Adventist Chaplaincy Institute (ACI) has been founded. ACI training programs will be developed in collaboration with a variety of denominational entities, including administration and the education, health, and ministerial departments. This integrated approach will provide an array of educational opportunities to develop specialized ministry for denominational and public and private organizations.



ACI will oversee collaborative denominational training programs for chaplaincy, assist Seventh-day Adventists seeking to enter the chaplaincies, and help chaplains attain the highest professional standards. ACI seeks to inspire and develop called, competent, and caring chaplains who use their skills to perform or provide a compassionate and holistic ministry of grace, hope, and healing to all those in their circles of influence.

ACI operations will be overseen by Darold Bigger, Vice President of Academic Operations, Johnny Ramirez-Johnson, Vice President of Clinical Operations and Basharat Masih, Director of Clinical Operations. Mario Ceballos will serve as President.

The purpose of ACI is to provide board certification and continuing education opportunities to chaplains. During 2016, ACI will begin to accept applications for board certification for endorsed Adventist chaplains. Continuing education courses will be offered in collaboration with the Adventist Learning Community. More information about ACI will be featured in upcoming issues of *The Adventist Chaplain*.

## WORLD SERVICE ORGANIZATION

Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries was birthed because of the work of the National Service Organization (NSO) from the 1940s through the early 1970s. A changing world and the need to prepare people for service in many capacities is leading to the revitalization of the World Service Organization (WSO) and the National Service Organization.

The World Service Organization (WSO) and the National Service Organization (NSO) are an integral

element of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (ACM). The WSO, (at the global and Division levels<sup>1</sup>), and the National Service Organization (at the Union and Conference, and local levels<sup>2</sup>), are tasked to support Adventists who serve their governments. These organizations fulfill a fundamental mission of the church—to ensure pastoral care and religious support is available for Adventists serving their nations, in military and defence forces, law enforcement, and other government agencies.

Among other functions, the WSO/NSO,<sup>3</sup>

- 1 Develops programs that support Seventh-day Adventists serving their nations and public institutions.
- 2 Develops and implements programs that will assist Adventists in making informed decisions based on biblical and ethical principles about issues around public service and their freedom to exercise their religion.
- 3 Seeks to assist Seventh-day Adventist members with problems of conscience and accommodation of religious practice by working in cooperation with church departments, offices, and services, such as Religious Liberty, Youth, and the Office of General Counsel.
- 4 Develops and maintains effective working relationships with civilian government officials concerning Adventists in civil, public, and uniformed services.
- 5 Obtains official government recognition for alternate and/or exception to military service for Adventist members in countries with mandatory military service. Programs that have served and

are serving these purposes are the Medical Cadet Corps (MCC), Youth Emergency Services (YES) and others that prepare church members for alternative/humanitarian service in lieu of military combat roles.

**6** Promotes and supports Division efforts to organize religious retreats for Adventists serving in uniform and all other government/public-related service.

**7** Publishes the official denominational magazine for Adventists serving their nations. Prepares and circulates current information and publications concerning public/government service.

**8** Maintains a database of all Seventh-day Adventist members in government service, including military, law enforcement services, parliaments, correctional institutions, etc.

**9** Recognizes the service of Adventist veterans/retirees from government service and engages their experience in assisting the church and the WSO in its work of informing church members about civil service.

non-Adventist campuses leave the church during their university career. PCM and ACM will work together to provide training for campus leaders and guidance for conferences, unions, and divisions as they reach out to Adventist youth who are on these campuses through the assignment of chaplains and development of resources specifically for public campus ministry.

1 *General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Working Policy*. 2011-2012, pg. 243.

2 The World Service Organization serves at a world level (General Conference and currently in 13 Divisions worldwide). The National Service Organizations serves at a national level (Union and Conferences).

3 *General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Working Policy*. 2011-2012, pg. 244.

## **PUBLIC CAMPUS MINISTRIES** →

In a recent action by world church leadership, the office of Public Campus Ministries (PCM) has been placed under the umbrella of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries. The role of PCM is to assist leaders on non-Adventist college and university campuses to minister to both Adventist and non-Adventist students. Jiwan Moon is the Associate Director for Public Campus Ministries.

Ninety-five percent of the estimated 1.4 million Adventist students on



# CHAPLAINS

## Leaning Into the Hard Places

By Deena Bartel-Wagner

**T**he whirring blades of the chopper open the familiar scene as a helicopter lands somewhere in Korea. Father Mulcahy, the chaplain in the television series *M\*A\*S\*H*, journals that he is waiting for anyone to show up his 10:00 interfaith service. He hasn't given up hope. It's only 11:30. Mulcahy's greater concern is expressed in his battlefield reflection, 'I do give rites to the dying, but if only I could do something for the living.'

*Today the battle field can be anywhere people face danger, darkness, or despair. Or where people simply seek a spiritual voice in a time of need.—Chaplains, a film by Martin Doblmeier*

In his latest documentary, award-winning film maker Martin Doblmeier enters into the world of chaplains and shadows them as they minister in different settings with compassion and a sense of purpose. Doblmeier chose the subject because he was impressed that many people don't understand the role of the chaplain and the impact it has upon society.

*Chaplains* is a two-hour expedition that follows chaplains through their

daily routine—a military chaplain in Afghanistan, a corrections chaplain, a health care chaplain, and a law enforcement chaplain. Doblmeier also explores some less well-known chaplaincies—a workplace chaplain at Tyson Foods and a NASCAR chaplain and a former actor turned chaplain who provides support to those who worked in the entertainment field and now reside in the Los Angeles-based Motion Picture and Television Fund retirement community. The chaplains of the United States Congress, including Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain Barry Black, are also highlighted.

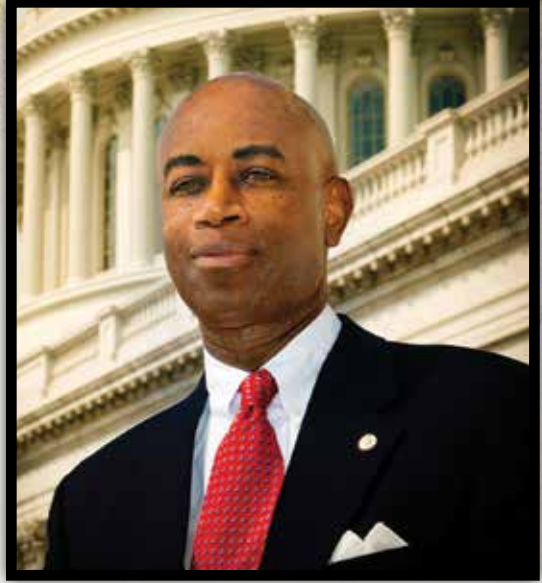




During the 18 months of production, Doblmeier witnessed how chaplains live out their sense of faith and purpose through their ministry to others.

Since 1983 when Doblmeier founded Journey films, he has made more than 30 movies about faith. “I’m always looking for ways to portray the various forms of faith being lived out in the lives of others,” says Doblmeier. “I have a number of friends who are chaplains. This is a unique form of ministry and I wanted others to be more informed about it.”

During the 18 months of production, Doblmeier witnessed how chaplains live out their sense of faith and purpose through their ministry to others. The film portrays how chaplains are called to be faith friendly to who they encounter, without compromising their own beliefs. As he coordinated the filming, Doblmeier chose to feature a wide variety of faith traditions—Buddhist, Muslim, Catholic, Jewish rabbi and Protestant. “We had many chaplains who were interested in participating in the film,” says Doblmeier. “There were times that the institutions where they worked were a little more hesitant. Administrators were concerned with privacy issues, security, and the institution’s accountability.”



Photos by Journey films

“Chaplains live out their lives with a sense of faith and purpose,” says Doblmeier.”

He also came to appreciate what a challenging environment many chaplains work in. They face life and death, encounter people who may feel hopeless, frightened, or angry, and perform in stressful situations where their sense of calm brings peace. As one chaplain in the film states, they “lean into the hard



One of Doblmeier's expectations was to engage the viewer to appreciate and value the ministry of chaplains.



places" in people's lives.

Institutions where chaplains work must live within established budgets. Those budgets are often driven by numbers and results. "Economic stability for the chaplaincy department can create a lot of insecurity," observes Doblmeier. "Many of the benefits that a chaplain provide to an institution aren't quantifiable."

As a filmmaker, one must keep perspective to honestly portray the subject matter. In spite of this, the topic can affect and impact in unexpected ways. "I was impressed with how chaplains often have faster short term relationships with people," says Doblmeier. He was also particularly moved by the chaplaincy program at Tyson Foods. "Chaplaincy seems to run counter to corporate idealism, but here is a CEO who has

the largest chaplaincy program in the corporate world. There are more than 120 full and part-time staff chaplains."

One of Doblmeier's expectations was to engage the viewer to appreciate and value the ministry of chaplains. From private to public screenings, the film has been well received. "After the screening, I will have people say to me, 'I had no idea what chaplains did.' 'I had no idea where chaplains worked,'" says Doblmeier. The breadth of chaplaincy is pleasing to people."

Doblmeier and Journey Films brings more than 30 years of experience in specialty film-making in religion, faith, and spirituality. His films have aired on PBS, ABC, NBC, and the BBC on broadcast outlets around the world. Journey Films have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

If his name sounds familiar, it might be because of his trilogy of films on Seventh-day Adventists. These were *The Adventists*, *The Adventists 2*, and *The Blueprint—The Story of Adventist Education*.





# CHAPLAINS

A New Documentary from Martin Doblmeier  
(*The Adventists Series*)

Dramatic Stories – Inspiring Faith

Including a profile of Barry  
Black: Adventist Chaplain for  
the United States Senate



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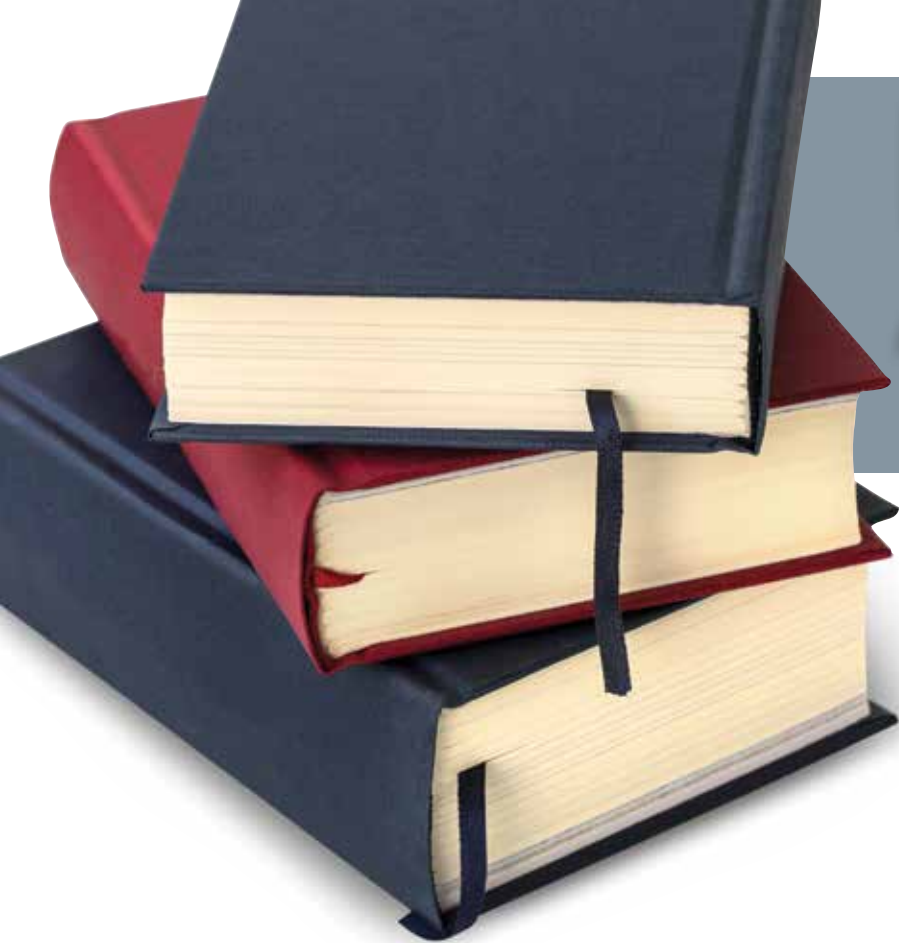
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# DREAMS AND

Shakespeare asked, “What’s in a name?” Often, people may not know the meaning of their names. Lungile Sitsha is very aware of his. “My parents were devout Adventists,” says Lungile. “When I was born and given my name, it came with the significant meaning of ‘God’s righteous vessel.’”

A childhood of church and school activities filled Lungile’s daily life. “By the time I was ready for college, I made the decision to enter the engineering field,” says Lungile. “After college, I became a boilermaker.”

Work should have been fulfilling, but a vacuum existed in Lungile’s life. Dissatisfaction seemed to permeate his work and life as he labored six days a week. “I felt such a void on a

daily basis,” recalls Lungile. “I finally realized that I had a spiritual emptiness. Nightly, as I slept I began to dream that I was preaching to people.”

The emptiness continued for several months before Lungile decided to quit his job. “I wanted to attend camp meetings, participate in youth work, give Bible studies, and preach in evangelistic meetings,” says Lungile. “It was something that I knew I had to do, but couldn’t explain it to others.”

Promises of an increased salary at work couldn’t entice Lungile to change his mind. “My boss told me he would increase my salary,” says Lungile. “He didn’t understand when I told him that money wasn’t the problem.” Although Lungile left his work, the preaching dreams continued



# EAMS, BOOKS, MINISTRY

By Lungile Sithsa, as told to Deena Bartel-Wagner

on a regular basis. What do these mean? wondered Lungile

To pay the bills, but have the flexibility to participate in spiritual activities, Lungile decided to open his own business. All was going well until one Sabbath when a guest pastor was at church. “During the sermon the speaker pointed out at me and asked, ‘What are you doing for the Lord? I want to pray for you.’”

Following the church service, Lungile met with the pastor, he was told, “Come to see me on Monday.” Lungile kept the appointment and arrived at the specified location with questions of why the pastor wanted to see him.

“When I met with the pastor, he handed me a briefcase,” says Lungile. “I’ll never forget his words to me. ‘I believe you will be effective in the Lord’s vineyard. This week I want you to sell books along with me. The second week you will go alone.’”

Without question, Lungile accepted the invitation. He was able to secure orders for books and was encouraged. He couldn’t have predicted the disappointment he



“I finally realized that I had a spiritual emptiness. Nightly, as I slept I began to dream that I was preaching to people.”



would experience during the delivery week when he returned with books in hand. “Customers canceled every single order when I attempted to make the deliveries,” says Lungile.

Confused and discouraged, Lungile challenged God. “This is the way you have called me,” Lungile prayed. “This isn’t working. I’ll try again tomorrow. If it doesn’t work, I’ll quit!”

The next morning Lungile received a call. “Hello, I want to buy some presents for eight branches of my business,” the caller told Lungile. “What would you recommend?”

“That week we had just received a shipment of books from Stansboro Press,” recalls Lungile. “I told the caller about a set of books that was available. The response was I want a set of those for each of my employees.”

Lungile couldn’t believe his ears. The total amount of the order was Z\$145,000. He was even more shocked when the caller said, “I will deposit that money today. Where would you like it sent?”

“When I placed the order at the book center, no one believed my story. I had never met that woman before,” says Lungile. “Only God could have

directed her to call and order books from me.” Once Lungile pledged himself to working as a literature evangelist, the preaching dreams came to an end. “I believe these were God’s prompting me to enter the ministry,” says Lungile.

During the next three years, Lungile spent working as a credentialed Literature Evangelist. A promotion to Assistant Publishing Director came next. With a desire to continue his education, Lungile saved everything he could for tuition.

In 2006, tragedy struck and Lungile lost all of his savings. “A fatal automobile accident nearly took my wife from me,” recalls Lungile. “Although badly injured, my wife was lucky not to be among the dead. After being hospitalized for six months, she spent an additional four months on crutches.” Everything that Lungile had saved for school went to pay for hospital and medical bills.

Undeterred, Lungile registered at Solusi University and attended his first semester. “I didn’t enroll for the second semester,” says Lungile. “Instead, I went to Namibia and sold books to raise funds. God blessed, and

## Lungile spent holidays and school breaks selling books and earning his fees.

I earned enough to pay for my next two semesters of classes.”

This pattern continued, with Lungile spending holidays and school breaks selling books and earning his fees.

Three years later, Lungile graduated and entered the ministry. “I was assigned to work as an intern in the largest church in Bulawayo,” says Lungile. “This pastoral experience was important to me and what would be my next assignment.”

At the completion of his internship, Lungile was assigned as the chaplain for the Bulawayo Adventist High School. Working with students was exciting and rewarding for Lungile. “We instituted many programs for the students. One of the largest groups was a Voice of Prophecy study group with 350 students actively studying their Bibles.”

In 2013, Lungile was asked to transfer to his current chaplaincy position at Solusi Adventist High School (SAHS). “I care for the spiritual needs of approximately 700 students and 50-60 faculty and staff members and their families,” says Lungile.

One of the first things Lungile did upon his arrival was to form a Spiritual Master Plan for the school. “We want to be intentional in both in-reach and outreach as we seek to fulfill the school’s mission statement,” says Lungile. “We are preparing each student holistically (physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially) for service in this world and for better service in the world to come.”

The in-reach program is the utilization of the In Discipleship program. “The school’s In Discipleship

program has had a lot of impact,” says Lungile. “We’ve trained students, teachers, parents, chairpersons of the PTA and STC committees for our schools, as well as students from sister schools in the area.”

The training has helped the students become more involved in on-campus leadership through worship and church activities. Student leaders work as a team with the chaplain to engage the student body in spiritual activities.

“Every week, our students distribute Voice of Prophecy lessons and food to neighboring villages,” says Lungile. “Students use their pocket money to buy the food. Sometimes they purchase as much as 60 kilograms of sugar, 60 kilograms of rice, 60 kilograms of other foodstuffs to share with others.”

Ministry to the students brings joy, but it also highlights concerns for their chaplain. “In many ways the church has not yet realized that the future rests with our students who are in high school and college,” says Lungile. “Many of our students face social challenges that can lead them away from a relationship with Christ. They struggle with bullying, divorced parents, drugs, homosexuality, and other issues. If we don’t attend to these problems, the students will have no hope.”

Preaching dreams, God-given books sales, and the persistence of raising tuition in spite of overwhelming obstacles molded a pastor and chaplain for his ministry. For Chaplain Lungile Sitsha, dedicating his ministry to helping students is a dream of a lifetime.





# FIRST RESPONDER TO FIRST RESPONDERS

By Tuwan Ussery, as told to Deena Bartel-Wagner



says Tuwan. “She would take me to church and I would be exposed to the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When I returned home, my spiritual training didn’t exist. Neither of my parents attended church.”

The summer that Tuwan was 12, he attended his first evangelistic meeting. “I was convicted and baptized,” says Tuwan. This decision began to make other changes in his life. “I remember asking my mother why we watched television on Sabbath.”

An innocent question from a son stirred a mother’s heart. She began to take Tuwan to a local Adventist church. “It didn’t last,” says Tuwan. “We didn’t know anyone there and the members didn’t go out of their way to befriend us. It’s easy to lose interest when you are greeted with that kind of reception.”

God didn’t leave things there. “When I turned 15, my mother heard

**R**unning away from God’s calling never gives peace to one’s soul. You only have to read of Jonah, Paul, and others who have resisted, but eventually surrender to the Divine plan for their lives.

As a youth, Tuwan Ussery didn’t know much about spiritual matters. “I would visit my grandmother every summer in Birmingham, Alabama,”





about a church plant. She decided to attend the services and my father went with us,” says Tuwan. “During that first day, he repented and gave his heart to the Lord.” As committed Christian parents, Tuwan’s parents enrolled him at Mt. Pisgah Academy in Candler, North Carolina. It was here that he remembers first being drawn to the idea of pastoral ministry.

“I felt the desire, but I shrugged it off,” admits Tuwan. “I graduated from academy and returned home to work, instead of going to college. I had thought about the ministry, but had been discouraged by an adult friend who had not had a positive experience.”

When he finally enrolled at Oakwood University, Tuwan chose to major in social work. “I still felt the Holy Spirit directing my heart,” says Tuwan. “I would become engaged in theological discussions and Bible studies. I even sat in on Bible classes that I wasn’t registered to attend. I simply enjoyed the discussions. It was then that I could no longer deny my calling to ministry.”

After graduation from Oakwood University with a degree in social work, Tuwan began his career. He still wasn’t ready to let go. “God must

“I would become engaged in theological discussions and Bible studies. I even sat in on Bible classes that I wasn’t registered to attend. I simply enjoyed the discussions. It was then that I could no longer deny my calling to ministry.”

have a sense humor,” says Tuwan. “I was asked to be the head elder at our local church. It was there I learned about the methods of how the church operates and how to be effective in servant leadership.”

Andrews University was the next stop for graduate study. Following graduation from the seminary, Tuwan worked as both a hospital and law enforcement chaplain.

Today, he serves as the lead chaplain for the Chattanooga Police

When the chaplaincy program was initiated many of the officers didn't understand the role of the chaplain. As friendships have been built and relationships strengthened, officers and chaplains work seamlessly together.

Department (CPD) in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "Law enforcement chaplains are the first responders to the police officers who are the first responders to the community," says Tuwan. "We assist officers during ride-alongs and are often called upon to meet the spiritual or emotional needs of victims. Our primary duty is to our officers and their families."

Tuwan and his staff of nine chaplains were tested to their limits during several tragic events that occurred in the Chattanooga community. A summer evening in June was marred by a crash on Interstate 75 that runs through Chattanooga. A semi-truck was unable to stop and plowed into cars that were stopped in a construction zone. Eighteen people were involved in the wreck, with six people killed.

Tuwan and his fellow chaplains responded along with fellow law enforcement personnel. "This was a horrific incident and the highest fatality crash in Chattanooga in the

past 10 years," says Tuwan. "Our police officers responded and were faced with some of the worst carnage they had ever seen. It is difficult when anyone dies. When children are involved, it seems to affect people more deeply. Two children died in a vehicle fire that was a part of this accident. The chaplains were crucial to the police officers debriefing and self-care after the incident.

Just as the community had begun to cope with the tragedy and move forward another tragedy was waiting in the wings. The morning of July 16 began much like any other work day for this southern city of nearly 174,000 people. The morning calm was shattered when a gunman opened fire on a Marine Recruiting Substation and then moved on to a Navy Reserve Center where he shot and killed four Marines. A fifth victim died of his wounds one day later.

"Our department coordinated with the Navy chaplain to provide a joint response," says Tuwan. "This event affected the entire community. All of the training and experience of the CPD chaplains kicked in. We assisted the police department as they took eye witness statements. Some of our chaplains were assigned to circulate through the group of witnesses to offer solace and pray with them if requested. Others were assigned to the hospital where one of the wounded police officers was taken. We had chaplains who debriefed the responding officers using critical incident stress management techniques as the post-crisis follow-up."

As prayer vigils sprung up around the community, chaplains attended those to lend a listening

ear, say a pray, comfort citizens, and be present if they were needed in other ways.

These two situations demonstrate the gains that have been made between the chaplains and the police officers. When the chaplaincy program was initiated many of the officers didn't understand the role of the chaplain. As friendships have been built and relationships strengthened, officers and chaplains work seamlessly together.

The chaplain training is ongoing. "We require our chaplains to attend the International Conference of Police Chaplains annual training," says Tuwan. "Our team is diverse in its faith traditions, with Jewish, Catholic, Islamic, and Protestant faiths represented. All are ordained ministers who are active in a local congregation and have experience in assisting people in crisis."

The CPD chaplain corps is not an entity unto itself. "We coordinate and converse with the Department of Social Services, the Family Justice Center, the American Red Cross, and other area agencies," says Tuwan.

"Additionally, we participate in

the Citizen's Police Academy." This is a nine-week Law Enforcement Education program that gives citizens an accurate picture of police work and the criminal justice system. Participants meet one evening weekly for interactive programs and shared dialogue. This community building activity opens dialogue between citizens and law enforcement.

"With the breakdown of families in our present society and the unwillingness for some to accept responsibility for their choice, the Chattanooga police officers do an exceptional job addressing the social ills that plague our community," says Tuwan. "The Chattanooga police chaplains are here to understand the demands on the officers, how their job affects them and to provide support and counsel."

Although he doesn't pastor in a parish setting, Tuwan Ussery fulfills his call to ministry in an environment that is fluid and unpredictable. He wouldn't have it any other way, because he knows that this ministry is right where God wants him to be.







# FRONTLINE MINIST

By Lesenamore Thulaganyo Mokgwane, as told to Deena Bartel-Wagner



He understood that the soldiers under his care would be his congregation, just as the congregations he ministered to in the local church.

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**L**esenamore Thulaganyo Mokgwane never dreamed he'd make a ministry career change after 20+ years of literature evangelism, pastoral ministry, and administrative work. A conversation with a fellow student during graduate school courses reignited his interest in becoming a military chaplain in the Botswana Defence Force.

"I'd applied to become a military chaplain in 1997, but my application was rejected because of my age. I gave up that dream and continued with my church ministry," says Mokgwane. "During a conversation with my graduate school friend I learned that civilians could enter the chaplaincy and the age factor wasn't an issue."

Mokgwane met all of the requirements and applied. Three weeks later he was called in for an interview. I learned that another Adventist pastor had also applied. The military would only accept one of us, so I volunteered to withdraw my application," says Mokgwane. Instead, he was encouraged

to complete the interview. "I'd heard that I should expect to spend about 20-25 minutes with the committee," says Mokgwane. "Imagine my surprise when the questions continued for one and a half hours!"

Finally, the committee whittled the group of candidates down to three. Suddenly, two dropped out and Mokgwane was the only one left. They had one last question for Mokgwane. What would he do about Sabbath, if he were needed. "I had just one answer," says Mokgwane. "I would be there if I was needed for an emergency." He understood that the soldiers under his care would be his congregation, just as the congregations he ministered to in the local church. Today, he serves as a civilian chaplain in the Botswana Defence Forces and holds the rank of senior chaplain, which is equivalent to Major.

"At the beginning of my chaplaincy career, I was assured that I would not be sent into operational areas," says Mokgwane. "Instead, I have

# TRY IN BOTSWANA

been sent and gone where I was needed most. This could be in anti-poaching operations, working with police on crime control, and other situations. The BDF also engages in peace-keeping missions and have participated in Somalia, Rwanda, Mozambique, and Lesotho.

The major component of his work is to provide counseling, both in groups and to individuals. “There is a great need for family life training and helping families to be successful and healthy,” says Mokgwane.

During his time with the military families, Mokgwane has witnessed the isolation that children often experience. “My experience as a youth director has helped me to know how to reach out to youth who may be at high risk,” says Mokgwane. He believes mentoring is an effective way to guide them. “I help the teens find opportunities to do job shadowing and receive career counseling. This gives them a hope for a future.”

Suicide prevention is another facet of Mokgwane’s ministry. “The suicide rate is increasing,” says Mokgwane. “The chaplain works with social

workers, psychologists, and counselors to provide support to soldiers who are in crisis.”

As chaplain, Mokgwane will work one-on-one with a soldier who is in acute need, but he will refer maintenance cases to social workers on staff. This frees up his time to care for more people who are under his care.

“I have 7,000 soldiers and their families who look to me for spiritual guidance,” says Mokgwane. “Sometimes it can be overwhelming. I don’t always feel like I have had adequate training and that frustrates me at times.”

One of the methods that Mokgwane uses to reach many of the families is to provide a type of Bible school for children up to age 12. They are invited to participate in the activities and learn more about Jesus. “This program is done in consultation with the local Adventist conference children’s ministry department,” says Mokgwane. “It couldn’t happen if I didn’t have a superb support staff to assist me in this outreach.” Supplies are limited and this often means creative planning must fill the gap

Mokgwane and his sons.



“Many couldn’t believe that I would voluntarily leave my church work to join the military as a chaplain. Some even asked me if I had done something to be released from my church positions.”

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when there aren’t enough materials for the children’s programming.

Another role that Mokgwane fills is that of advisor to the commandant. “When we are faced with difficult choices, the commandant wants my reflection on what is the right thing to do,” says Mokgwane. “He may ask me if I believe an operation is morally right. It is a solemn moment to give that kind of advice.”

Chaplains don’t typically live within the perimeter of the camp, but Mokgwane is a rare case. He is provided a house in addition to his salary. Being near to the soldiers contributes to accessibility by the soldiers when they need to talk with the chaplain. This has been an important factor in overcoming the soldiers’ skepticism. “Initially, when I joined the BDF, soldiers questioned whether I was genuine,” says Mokgwane. “Many couldn’t believe that I would voluntarily leave my church work to join the military as a chaplain. Some even asked me if I had done something to be released from my church positions. I happily told them that I was with them because I

knew God had led me to be in that place at that moment.”

One of the greatest hindrances Mokgwane faces is the lack of a chapel for services. “Currently, we don’t have a chapel where we can meet on a regular basis,” says Mokgwane. “This impacts our programming and spiritual activities. We often find ourselves moving from room to room, which doesn’t provide the stability that we need for a congregation.”

Mokgwane knows that his time as a military chaplain is limited. Mandatory retirement is at age 60, but his commanders have indicated that he could extend his time. As Mokgwane reflects on his role as a pastor and as a chaplain, he has a burden for the church to see the opportunity that is available right now. “I want my church to take advantage of what they could do and be,” says Mokgwane. “There is an open door right now for Adventists to be a part of this kind of ministry. We need to look to the future of the mission in the church and not overlook those who serve in uniform for their country and fellow citizens.”



# Unleashing GOD'S POWER!

By Jackie Ordelle Smith,  
Communications Manager, General  
Conference Ministerial Department

**A** small church in a farming town had been without a pastor for more than six months. It had been decreasing in size for years, so God led the head elder to unite with church members several times a week in prayer. They prayed, and prayed, and kept praying for people to come to their church. People did start coming, and members continued to pray until their attendance had more

than doubled! Their dying school became their next united prayer object. God soon had doubled its enrollment plus the members were now seeing personal answers to prayer and were filled with rejoicing!

Imagine, millions of Seventh-day Adventists around the world, all praying together in one accord for the same thing! What would happen? If millions unitedly persevered in



prayers, much like the disciples did in the upper room just before Pentecost and throughout the book of Acts, what could God do!

God has promised to pour out His Spirit upon us, if we just ask, and press together as a people in one accord in prayer. You can be part of a similar dynamic, worldwide prayer movement with that same purpose! *United in Prayer*, as this Revival and Reformation initiative is called, is a global church community of Seventh-day Adventist members praying together. “We want to encourage members to join together in prayer,” says Jerry Page, General Conference Ministerial Association Secretary, “whether through your own personal time with God, personal prayer groups, or in a broader sense as a church through prayer phone lines, 777 on the hour, texting groups, or any other way that God leads.” Participants of *United in Prayer* will also share and receive testimonies, prayer requests, practical helps, and inspirational messages.

In Matthew 18:19 and 20, God invites us to come together and ask great things of Him: “. . . If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father, which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (KJV).

## WHY PRAY UNITEDLY?

Ellen White tells us that, “The promise [in Matthew] is made on condition that the united prayers of the church are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to

God has promised to pour out His Spirit upon us, if we just ask, and press together as a people in one accord in prayer.

the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another (9 Manuscript Release 303.3)—MR No. 748 “The Power of United Prayer.”

A young woman’s husband left her for another woman. Her father kept persistently asking everyone to pray for the husband—his son-in-law—to come back to the wife and family. The father would meet in various prayer groups and would have them pray. The wife and children kept uniting in prayer for their father to return. For seven years they persevered in prayer. Then one happy day the husband returned home, and the marriage was restored!

“The purpose of united prayer is to pray together for what is on God’s heart for this lost world,” says Janet Page, General Conference Prayer Coordinator. “It brings us into unity, unleashes His power, and energizes our own spiritual life. I love it! Praying together with others has totally changed my life!”

## BELIEVE HIS PROPHETS

Prayer and Bible study go hand-in-hand to bring revival. One can hardly have a strong prayer life without also going deeper into God’s Word. The companion to the *United in Prayer* global prayer initiative is the global study program called *Believe His Prophets*. *Believe His Prophets*, the sequel to *Revived by His Word*, is a five-year program of reading

through the entire Bible, a chapter a day, with an accompanying blog, and interactive comments. It also includes weekly readings from seven Ellen G. White books, including *Steps to Christ*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *the Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*.

"God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path," says Derek Morris, editor of *Ministry* magazine and coordinator of the program. "So our goal is to encourage church members to spend time with God in prayer and reading the Bible every day."

"I used to be violent and always aggressive," writes one participant, "but because of God's Word and His life, I'm now peaceful, loving, and kind."

"My workmates are seeing changes in my habits," writes another. "I used to swear a lot at work, but now these habits are dying out. Thanks, Revived by His Word!"

Shah writes, "I am no longer complaining about leaders in my local church, but I pray for them!"

The name *Believe His Prophets* was

God has promised to pour out His Spirit upon us, if we just ask, and press together as a people in one accord in prayer.

taken from the counsel in 2 Chronicles 20:20, which says, "Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed" (ESV).

"Thousands have been blessed by God as a result of *Revived by His Word*," Morris concludes, "and we believe thousands more will gain an even deeper understanding of God's will or their lives through *Believe His Prophets*."

To be part of these two worldwide movements and receive the daily chapter and regular prayer mailings, go to [RevivalandReformation.org](http://RevivalandReformation.org).

This article originally appeared in *Elder's Digest*, October/December 2015. Jackie Ordelheide Smith was the Ministerial communication manager at the General Conference World Headquarters.



# Revival and REFORMATION

GUIDANCE  
for the

# JOURNEY HOME

**Take your connection with God to a higher level!**

***Believe His Prophets***, a sequel to ***Revived by His Word***, is a five-year journey through the Bible and selected writings of Ellen White, which includes daily Bible readings, daily interactive blogs, and weekly selections from the Spirit of Prophecy.

***United in Prayer*** is a dynamic worldwide movement to pray with others. Receive weekly inspirational prayer messages, ideas, testimonies, and requests from the world church, and share praise reports and prayer requests through WePray.mobi, an online prayer community.

Sign up for both ***Believe His Prophets*** and ***United in Prayer*** at [www.RevivalandReformation.org](http://www.RevivalandReformation.org).

## GLOBAL STUDY PROGRAM

**Believe**  
*His* Prophets

Every day in God's Word  
and the Spirit of Prophecy

## GLOBAL PRAYER CIRCLE

**UNITED**  
*in*  
**PRAYER**

Every day in Prayer  
with God's People





# ADVENTIST CHAPLAINCY MINISTRIES WORLDWIDE

## EAST CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

### ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA, NAIROBI, KENYA

The first cohort of the Master degree in Chaplaincy met at Adventist University of Africa in Nairobi, Kenya—with Mario E Ceballos. This is a joint effort between the General Conference Education Department, the East-Central Africa Division, the Adventist University of Africa and Adventist Chaplaincy Institute.

The first two weeks of the intensive covered the “Introduction to Chaplaincy. Dr. Mario Ceballos,



Director, ACM–GC, was the instructor. During the following two weeks, the students will study “Formation of Chaplaincy” under the tutelage of Dr. Basharat Masih, Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Institute, Clinical Operations.

Each of the three Divisions in Africa (ECD, SID, and WAD) are represented by students in this class. The participants are (standing L to R) Davie Kanjadza (Malawi), Stephen Letta (Tanzania), Dan Abuya (Kenya), MattEmang’s Own Lover Ramasankate (Botswana), Mario E Ceballos (General Conference), Mthokozisi Dube (Zimbabwe), Wlifred Mafwimbo (Tanzania), Nkae Rene (Cameroun), Okindo (Kenya). Kneeling (L to R) Charles Magutu





(Kenya), Joel Musaasizi (Uganda), Sikhumbuzo Dube (Zimbabwe).

**BUGEMA UNIVERSITY,  
KAMPALA, UGANDA**



Dr. Mario Ceballos, Director, ACM–General Conference with the Adventist Accrediting Association visit to Bugema Adventist University with Chaplains Jimmy Emwaku, Florence Bagonza, the dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies Professor Gebre Worancha Ph,D. Dr.Ceballos also met with Professor Opuda-Asibo, Executive Director, Uganda National Council for Higher Education.

**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY,  
NAIROBI, KENYA**



More than 5,000 Adventist students converged on the campus of Kenyatta University for Sabbath worship services with Dr. Mario Ceballos, Director, ACM–General Conference. Dr. Ceballos spoke to the students

about the stand they must take to represent Christ to others in all aspects of their lives.

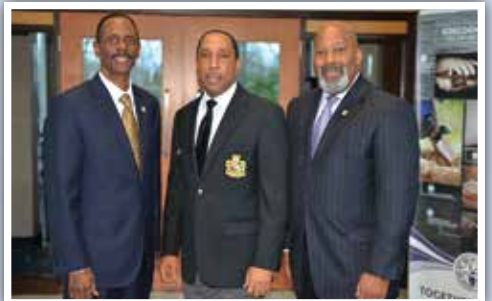
The students are currently attending various public universities in the greater Nairobi area. The Adventist campus chaplains for the region were instrumental in organizing the event.



**NORTH AMERICAN  
DIVISION**

**CANADA**

Dr. Paul Anderson, Director, ACM–North American Division and Dr. Washington Johnson, Assistant Director, ACM–North American Division, recently met with pastors and chaplains in the Ontario Conference. Topics of discussion included the general requirements for chaplaincy endorsement and the role of a chaplain versus the role of a pastor. Chaplains shared their personal experiences.



Dr. Mansfield Edwards, President, Ontario Conference and an endorsed law enforcement chaplain extended an invitation for an annual meeting to be held.

Elder Mark Johnson, President, Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and his fellow officers expressed their support for Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries and the chaplains who serve in Canada.

## COLORADO



The 2014–2015 Houston International Film Festival has awarded a Silver Remi and Bronze Remi Award to Dr. Richard Stenbakken, former ACM Director. Stenbakken received the Silver Remi in the category of Television and Cable Awards, TV Series-Documentary for his portrayal of “Chaplains of the Dorchester.” The Bronze Remi in the category of Television and Cable Production Awards, Historical Programming for his portrayal of “In Flanders Fields.” Both are from his DVD series “Soldiers of Destiny”

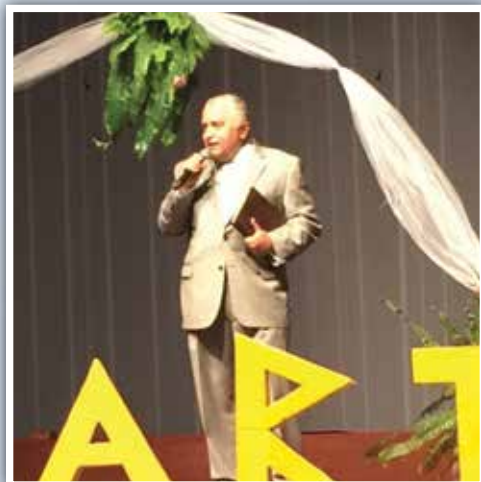
There were more than 4,300

category entries in all film and video competitions. Less than 12 percent of submitted entries placed for WorldFest Remi awards.

## SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION



During a recent visit to Peruvian Union Adventist University, Dr. Mario Ceballos, ACM Director–GC and the university’s chaplains spoke to more than 1,000 students about marriage and choosing a life partner. Peruvian Union Adventist University is one of the largest Adventist universities, with over 13,000 students enrolled.



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*Year's end is neither an end  
nor a beginning but a going  
on, with all the wisdom that  
experience can instill in us.*

— Hal Borland



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