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My Journey

In terms of the interaction of spirituality and science, I personally believe that they're different tools. Science is a way that we can understand God's creation around us, a way to understand how to use God's creation for medicinal purposes to help people live longer and happier lives, these kind of things. Visit vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajjohnvanpatten for more of Van Patten's story.

JOHN VAN PATTEN,
*Aurora, Colorado, pursuing a Ph.D. in biophysics
at the University of California, Berkeley.*



Cover Photo by Dan Weber

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

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ADVENTIST JOURNEY

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BREAKING

the ICE

Faith for Today's **Mike Tucker** shares his conversation with **Roy Ice**, incoming speaker/director for the broadcast media ministry.

Mike Tucker: Hello, Roy! First allow me to welcome you to the Faith for Today family! As you know, Faith for Today is the oldest religious television broadcast in the world. We will celebrate our seventieth birthday in May 2020. What are your emotions as you assume the leadership role for this historic ministry?

Roy Ice: I have quite the mix of emotions right now! The human part of me says, "How in the world did this just happen? There are so many more talented men and women here in our division that should be right here in my place." And the spiritual side of me says, "Relax. You didn't make this decision. You haven't decided where you were going since 1993, when you started out in ministry."

God opens and closes doors, and it's not our job to second-guess what He wants us to do. It's simply our role to follow where He leads and pour all our energy into the opportunities that He provides. I'm not confident in my own creativity or savvy, but I'm *very* confident that God has mapped out some revolutionary innovations that He wants to accomplish through Adventist media to touch hearts and minds, and connect them to eternal life.

We'd like to know about your family. I believe you are married and have two sons.

I am so blessed with a spiritually rich family. My wife, Dyna, and I have been married for more than 19 years, and in that time she has taught me so much about how to truly care for people in tangible and sacrificial ways. She has quite a reputation for being the consummate culinary artist, and most of our friends wonder how I keep in shape with all of her incredible cooking and baking.

Part of that answer is our two boys: Riley, age 13; and Kolton, age 10. They are wonderfully kind and witty sons who challenge me most nights to set up competitions, Nerf battles, and a bunch of other shenanigans. We are a family that loves our local church and believes that we are called to serve, not to be served. I can't wait for my family to be able to meet so many across our division and to be able to serve as many communities as we can within the time God allows us to serve in this ministry.

What is your ministry background?

[Laughs.] It's a bit diverse. Most recently I served as the pastor for resource development at the Loma Linda University church in Loma Linda, California, which included quite an abundance of creative and innovative projects in the areas of media, publishing, music, and even our church app.

For the past three years one of the things I've been blessed to see God do is to bring a very passionate group of people together to research and discuss the character of God. We call it The Bible Lab, and this intergenerational group of about 450 people meets every Sabbath at 10:30 a.m. in Loma Linda to consistently be blown away by God's infinite love. We are currently exploring ways that Faith for Today and Loma Linda University church can continue partnering together in this exciting program. Our website, www.TheBibleLab.com, contains audio and video episodes and updated info about what The Bible Lab is up to.

I think that's a wonderful program.

Thanks, Mike. Previous to working as a pastor at Loma Linda University church, I served as the executive pastor at the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, and as chaplain of Pacific Union College in Angwin for nearly six years. Before that I was a youth pastor at Azure Hills Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a Bible teacher at Sacramento Adventist Academy even before that. The only other job I had before all this, and just before going to Andrews University in Michigan for seminary, was working for two years in the Burleson Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas—the same church that you, Mike, had pastored just a few years before I graduated.

The Burleson church was a good place to learn. I cut my teeth on pastoral ministry there after years of teaching. I made most of my mistakes there, but they were gracious enough to let me grow.

That's one more similarity we have. I made mistakes there too. I was so green and wasn't the best pastor.

Since we announced your new role with Faith for Today on Facebook and Twitter, I've seen people recounting how you were a pastor there, and the folk in Burleson are claiming you. You made more of an impact than you thought. Is this where your passion for ministry started?

I was halfway through my undergraduate work at Southwestern Adventist University, studying pre-med. I knew I was going to Loma Linda someday. I



Roy Ice

just didn't think it was for anything other than medical school.

My biology professor taught me how to pray, and he challenged me to a 30-day prayer journey in which he asked me to pray twice a day, 15 minutes each time, to listen to the voice of God and speak only half the time, and actually let God give me *His* prayer request for the day. It was probably the most frustrating 30-day experience I've ever had.

I tried just about every configuration for how to talk half the time and be quiet half the time. I didn't receive anything. Silence. I had no impressions. I had no visions.

We must continue Faith for Today's unique ministry that so effectively initiates and develops relationships with people who are not only disconnected from our movement, but are completely unaware of what our movement is all about.



Faith for Today's outgoing speaker/director Mike Tucker (right) and Roy Ice enjoy getting to know each other over ice cream cones. Crystal Huber

Faith for Today speaker/director Mike Tucker passes the media ministry mantle to Roy Ice in 2020. *Crystal Huber*



I heard no voices—until day 30. I was sitting in one of my elective classes, a business management class, when the voice of God spoke to me and said, *What are you doing here? You belong in the Barron building.* The Barron building is where they teach all the theology classes on campus.

As cryptic as that sounds, I knew exactly what it meant, and I broke out in a cold sweat. I had said all during high school and the first half of college that I'd never be a pastor. I just didn't have a relationship with a pastor in my experience growing up. It was something quite foreign to me. God was calling me to something I had never envisioned myself doing.

I turned in the drop/add slip and the most amazing thing happened when the registrar stamped my slip and handed it back to me. I felt this overwhelming joy and peace from the Holy Spirit.

I felt like smiling and laughing at a time when I was absolutely petrified, scared to death, because I realized—more than anyone else—that I was unqualified for ministry. That moment, to be called by God and realize exactly how unworthy I was to represent God, it impacted my life in a huge way.

I'm passionate about helping individuals understand that regardless of how you feel, God is greater than your feelings. He needs to use us as we are—as individuals, and as very diverse personalities—to present His amazing character to people who have absolutely no idea that He loves them.

I also want to help people realize that if you give God a chance, He'll take care of everything. He will make you in some way qualified and able to carry out something you never imagined you'd have the ability to do.

With God's guidance, we need to continue to acknowledge the changing ways that people are consuming broadcast media, and make sure that we position ourselves in those emerging markets so that God can connect us.

We describe Faith for Today as a “first contact” ministry. In other words, it's our job to create programming and materials that meet the needs of and build friendships with unchurched people. How do you plan to build on Faith's ministry to secular people?

If you want to have influence, you must have a relationship. If you do not have a relationship, you will never have influence.

We must continue Faith for Today's unique ministry that so effectively initiates and develops relationships with people who are not only disconnected from our movement but are completely unaware of what our movement is all about. Here's the good news: Now more than ever, media shapes the lives of nearly every man, woman, and child in our division. At no other time in earth's history have people been so attached to media devices. When someone wants to research information on health, spirituality, relationships, or an endless list of how-to questions, they don't even have to go to a library anymore. All that they want to know is already in their possession. In fact, it's in either their pocket or purse—their mobile devices. And today, when someone wants to learn how to live better, or to discover how to connect with God, or what Christianity and Adventism is all about, all they have to do is pick up their phone or tablet and tell it what they're looking for.

The vast majority of people prefer to watch a video rather than to read a large block of text on a website. So that makes video media resources so much more important than ever before. With God's guidance we need to continue to acknowledge the changing ways that people are consuming broadcast media, and make sure that we position ourselves in those emerging markets so that God

can connect us. We've created good content for years; now we are connecting with local congregations, and on personal mobile devices through streaming as well as television.

What would you like everyone who reads this to know about Faith for Today/Lifestyle Magazine?

I would like to help clear up a misconception that I had for

years, and perhaps someone who is reading this article also shares. Faith for Today's mandate is to create content that is not aimed at Seventh-day Adventists. What this means is that our methodologies will not always, unfortunately, be understood or appreciated by the more traditional or conservative members. I hope that the fruit of Faith for Today will be so evident that those who initially might question what we are doing will see clearly why we have to do ministry this way. This media ministry serves as an ambassador in a distant land. It's my prayer that we will serve as such compelling ambassadors that multitudes will be irresistibly drawn to conclude that they absolutely must visit the kingdom that we represent.

I am looking forward to serving together with you.*

I'm ecstatic to be able to have you, Mike, stay on board full-time through the end of August to serve as my mentor, as my counselor, as my guide. These ministries are complex, and despite whatever experience I may have in some relevant areas, there are a lot of things that I don't know. It's a huge blessing to be able to work closely with you. I feel the Spirit of God working with us to have this relationship.

The ability to do ministry on this scale is the dream of many pastors who, like me, measure their effectiveness as a minister of the gospel with their quantifiable productivity—to be able to point at something in concrete terms and say, “I am being productive right now in reaching this many people with the gospel message and helping those who are disconnected have the chance to connect with God.”

* Visit www.faithfortoday.tv for more about the transition.



I never dreamed that I would one day lead the ministry founded by television pioneers William and Virginia Fagal. When the invitation came to lead this ministry, I was overwhelmed and quite certain that it was a mistake. How could I follow the likes of William Fagal and Dan Matthews? But for the past 16 years it has been my privilege to guide the oldest non-news television broadcast in the world.

Faith for Today, a ministry that will be 70 years old in May 2020, has always been focused on connecting with unchurched people. By using drama, films, TV specials, and talk shows, We reach people who don't watch “preaching shows.” Today *Lifestyle Magazine*, the award-winning television program, has a weekly viewing audience of more than 3 million people without having to pay for airtime. Religious and secular stations/networks donate airtime because of the quality of our programming. This has been the case for decades and God alone is to be praised!

Faith for Today has long made television shows of the highest quality as evidenced by the scores of awards won. But in more recent years we've found better ways to connect our secular viewers with local churches. Popular seminars such

as *Mad About Marriage* and *The Choice* have drawn audiences across the globe. Small-group curricula such as *Mad About Marriage: Flipping the Switch* and *The Grief Sessions* allow local churches to build loving friendships with our guests.

Over the past 16 years God has given us the means to produce 150 Faith for Today preaching programs, nearly 250 episodes of *Lifestyle Magazine*, four televised evangelistic series; to write and publish 15 books, publish several small group curricula; to hold nearly 150 seminars; to speak for more than 80 camp meetings; travel to 18 countries to preach the gospel; and to play a role in bringing thousands to faith in Jesus.

One soul for the kingdom is priceless! I was recently recognized by a viewer at a convenience store in Dallas, Texas. This man told me he had discovered Jesus through our program. He thanked me for the program and then asked about my church. While I do not yet know where this new friendship will lead, it is an example of the sort of work we do. We build friendships with people who don't know Jesus, and invite local churches to help with next steps.

As exciting as all this has been, I believe greater things yet await Faith for Today.



FREE CLINIC IN ARIZONA ADDRESSES ORAL HEALTH IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

BY ANNE CROSBY AND JONI BOKOVOY, M.D., AND NAD OFFICE OF COMMUNICATION

God's hand was at work in Page, Arizona, through a group of dedicated volunteers who facilitated 300 procedures during a free dental clinic hosted at the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church on September 23-25, 2019. During the three-day clinic approximately \$200,000 of dental procedures and \$30,000 dermatology services were given at no cost to more than 140 people.

The volunteer team included seven dentists, one dental hygienist, nine dental assistants, a board-certified dermatologist, a family-practice physician, and two massage therapists. Fifty-five additional volunteers managed registration, sterilized equipment, offered counseling, and provided related services.

Services and procedures included teeth cleaning, checkups, fillings, and extractions while using well-equipped dental chairs, mobile X-rays, e-imaging, and other dental-related services. The dermatologist performed skin checks and minor dermatological procedures on 40 patients. The family-practice physician provided preventive care screenings and counseling.

Of the treated patients, more than 90 percent were members of the Navajo Nation. A few Hopi and Zuni tribal members also participat-

← A community member receives dental care during the free clinic at the Page All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church, September 23-25, 2019. *Miguel Manzo*

ed, as well as several nonnative community members. A high percentage reported that they had diabetes, prediabetes, and/or heart disease, which are known risk factors linked to poor oral health.

Putting the Clinic Together

The project volunteers were provided by F5, a unique young professional Christian group created by dentist Calvin Kim. Kim met with Nancy Crosby, director of Native American Ministries for the Pacific Union Conference, to share the idea of holding a dental clinic. Through a series of events and much prayer, each detail fell into place.

The clinic was coordinated and organized by the Life and Health Network led by Danny Kwon, who has extensive experience operating free clinics worldwide; and Vinh Trinh, a paramedic and pre dental student who has worked alongside Kwon with the free clinics. Dental equipment was provided by Caring Hands Worldwide, a mobile clinic nonprofit from Eugene, Oregon, together with its executive director, Randy Meyer. *American Indian Living* magazine funded the tent (under which the services were performed), portable toilets, and other miscellaneous items.

The tent was packed with patients each day, many of whom had multiple procedures. The patients had the opportunity to meet with the pastor of Page All Nations and its Bible worker. Interest was generated for church services, and there were approximately 40 Bible study requests.

In addition, a group of licensed contractors and painters among the volunteers roofed the church's building and parsonage. They also repainted the church's exterior.

Testimonies

Many people traveled for hours to attend the dental clinic because of scarcity of quality dental services on

reservations. Although the patients seemed nervous and distrustful when they first arrived, smiles began to break out as people left the tent with their needs met.

One Navajo grandmother remarked, "This is some of the best dental care I have ever received. Not only did they do X-rays and clean my teeth—they also filled three cavities and replaced a crown."

A young Navajo father said, "I have always been afraid of dentists. These dentists are so kind. This is the first time I have seen a dentist in five years. They filled one cavity and showed me better ways to brush and floss to prevent future cavities."

"I felt respected. I have been embarrassed about my teeth," said a middle-aged Navajo woman. "I knew I had something wrong; I had pain. [Turns out] I had cavities in several [teeth]. They filled some of the cavities one day and the rest the next day."

One woman's story highlights the multiple challenges faced by many elderly members of the Navajo Nation. They often have to wait up to two years to be seen at a dental clinic that is located off the reservation and difficult to travel to. Clinics on the reservation are often too expensive. Indeed, many patients at the clinic said preventative oral hygiene techniques are not explained clearly to help prevent tooth decay or extractions.

"I have three relatives in their early 50s who already have dentures, and four who have had many of their teeth pulled and will soon need

↓ Volunteers provide dental care as members of the Navajo Nation fill the exam area.



Many people traveled for hours to attend the dental clinic because of scarcity of quality dental services on reservations.

dentures. I was also worried I may eventually need dentures. I have already had three teeth pulled," said Asdza.* "Thankfully my toothaches were only from cavities and were fixed today. I won't need a root canal. The dentist showed me how to floss better so that I will never need dentures."

Extended Service

Early childhood caries, or cavities, are the most common health problem for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) preschool children, and five times more common than asthma, according to an oral health study by the Indian Health Service. The same study shows that when compared to other population groups in the United States, AI/AN preschool children have the highest level of tooth decay. Further, children of the Navajo Nation have one of the lowest dentist-to-patient ratios in the country according to a 2014 study by the Colorado School of Public Health.

To help address the effects of the startling statistic, Kim and another volunteer dentist went to a local elementary school on September 24 to share information about oral health and hygiene. The dentists presented to 183 second graders at Lakeview Elementary School, where its staff said it was the best oral health presentation the school has received.

*Asdza is a pseudonym, which was given upon request, and means "woman" in the Navajo language.

NAD NEWS BRIEFS



↑ Bonita Shields, NAD Stewardship director, Debra Brill, and Ella Simmons, General Conference vice president, pose together during the 2019 NAD Year-End Meeting. Shields officially replaced Brill in January 2020. *Pieter Damsteegt*

NAD CHURCH MINISTRIES VP RETIRES

It's been my great joy to work with gifted leaders who love God and His church!" said Debra C. Brill, who retired in late 2019 after serving the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (NAD) as a vice president for 21 years.

"Debra Brill's impact on administrative colleagues, NAD ministry directors, and the membership-at-large will truly be seen only in eternity," said Daniel R. Jackson, NAD president.

Brill served as administrative liaison and chair of NAD committees and boards for the following ministries: Adventist Development and Relief Agency; Adventist Community Services; Adult, Children's, Deaf, Disabilities, Family, and Health ministries; Hope for Humanity; Meeting Planning; Philanthropic Services for Institutions; Prayer and Reconnecting ministries; Resource Development; Special Projects; Stewardship, Women's, and Youth/Young Adult ministries.

Bonita J. Shields, NAD Stewardship Ministries director, was elected to fill the vice presidency during the division's year-end meeting. Brill, with 33 years of denominational employment, holds the record for longest-serving vice president of the NAD, and she is the second woman to occupy a vice president position at the division. The first was Rose Otis.

—*Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD Office of Communication*



↑ Derek Sloan, newly-elected Canadian Parliament member, celebrates with his family on October 21, 2019. *Photo provided by the Canadian Union Messenger*

First Adventist Elected to Canada's Parliament

On October 21, 2019, Derek Nathaniel Sloan was elected as the member of Parliament (MP) for the Ontario riding of Hastings-Lennox and Addington as a member of the Conservative Party of Canada.

"I did this because I thought that God was leading me, and that God had placed me in the riding at an opportune time, and a lot of doors opened," said Sloan. "But at the same time, it has been a long journey. . . . It's been a big investment of emotion and time and so forth. I'm really glad that it has worked out so far; I'm thankful for all of the support I have received."

Sloan also shared that he's keeping his eyes open for God's leading. "I will see how that materializes in Ottawa, and how that manifests itself over the next couple years. My options are open, and I want to get involved as much as I can, work in my riding as best I can, and be the best MP I can be."

— *Barry W. Bussey, director of Legal Affairs at Canadian Council of Christian Charities*

LOCAL ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES PROVIDES HOLIDAY HELP

For nearly 1,000 families in Montgomery County, Maryland, filling the Thanksgiving table with food was easier in 2019. Thanks to contributions from the county and the state of Maryland, and food donations from Sligo and Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist churches, and Takoma Academy Preparatory School, people who preregistered through a county database received a full, 30-pound Thanksgiving meal basket that included turkey, bread, vegetables, potatoes, and more.

"This provides the opportunity for these families to say, 'We're not different. Yes, we're struggling financially, but at least a couple times a year we can be like the rest of our culture [and enjoy] what should be happening on that date,'" said Kenneth Flemmer, executive director of Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW). "That's really important, because if you don't



↑ A holiday food basket recipient thanks an ACSGW volunteer for the special Thanksgiving meal he received on November 25, 2019. *Alicia Tucker/ACSGW*

have hope, if you aren't sharing hope and exuding hope, life gets pretty miserable."

The community center has been serving the community through its food pantry and closet, and various projects for 36 years. Throughout the year the ACSGW engages with the community through tutoring, its learning center, computer classes, English as a second language classes, and summer youth programs.

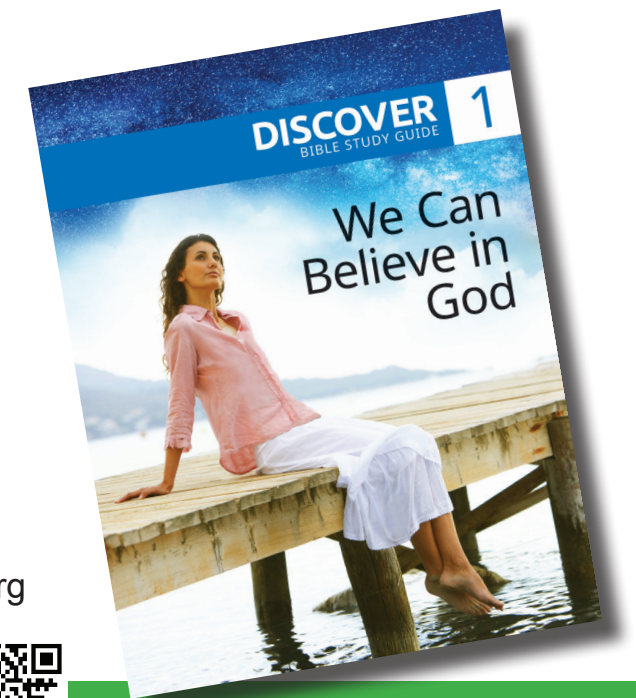
—*Kimberly Luste Maran*

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BY KYOSHIN AHN

A New Commandment

Jesus is our perfect example of how to live. While on earth, He gave His disciples a "new" commandment, to "love one another" just as He loved them (John 13:34). He faithfully lived out this commandment in His life and ministry. He loved people fearlessly, unconditionally, and extravagantly.

Boundless

Jesus was notoriously indiscriminate in displaying His love. No exception was ever practiced. Jesus greeted all people "as children of God."¹ Refusing to give in to fear, rejection, and hatred, He crossed all kinds of boundaries—political, religious, economic, ethnic, and gender—and willingly made Himself available to everyone.

Why boundless? We all fall short of God's will and glory (Rom. 3:23). Anything that falls short of a perfect God is sin (1 John 3:4). And all sins are equal in God's sight; they separate us from Him and make us subject to death. Paul's declaration—"for the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23)—applies to all sins. Human beings may rate sins, but Jesus does not. For Him our sins, whether big or small, place us where we are diametrically opposed to God and His grace.

Compassionate

In His display of love, Jesus showed genuine compassion. The Bible says He was "moved with compassion" for all people (Matt. 9:36), regardless of their social status. This expression literally means "moved in the bowel." He felt a visceral, gut-wrenching compassion toward His children, which compelled him to take action—healing, feeding, and delivering. These life changing actions demonstrated the heart and mind of God.

With Respect

Loving one another means that we treat people with respect and dignity, as Jesus did, even if they are "different" from us. The inhumanity we sometimes display toward other members of the family of God is "our greatest sin."²

To a woman who had been severely bent over for 18 years, Jesus declared her instantaneous freedom (Luke 13:12). He conferred

on her a status equal to her male counterparts when He called her a "daughter of Abraham" (verse 16). On another occasion Jesus didn't rebuke the bleeding woman for making Him "unclean" according to Levitical law. Rather He complimented her for her faith (Luke 8:48).

Jesus treated with respect those who didn't think as He thought, ultimately transforming the lives of some of them. As the rich ruler chose money over following Him, Jesus still looked at him and "loved him" (Mark 10:21). Jesus willingly had a conversation with Nicodemus, who questioned His teaching, eventually leading him to become one of His followers.³ Indeed, one of the most beloved verses in the Bible (John 3:16) was uttered during His engagement with Nicodemus.

Through such genuine acts of love and kindness walls of hostility were destroyed. A bridge was built over the deep chasm of sin that separated humans from God. God's family was also reclaimed and reborn. Humanity was restored. The dignity of all persons made in the image of God was upheld. Humanity now has direct access to God and His amazing grace.

Jesus invites us to live lives that faithfully point to Him and mirror His character. Our lives are good news for the world and an opportunity for us as a church to reflect the character of His kingdom.

While on earth, Jesus gave His disciples a "new" commandment to "love one another" just as He loved them. . . . He invites us to live a life that faithfully points to and mirrors Him.

¹Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1900, 1941), p. 186.
²Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905), p. 163.
³Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1898, 1940), p. 177.

Kyoshin Ahn is undersecretary of the North American Division.

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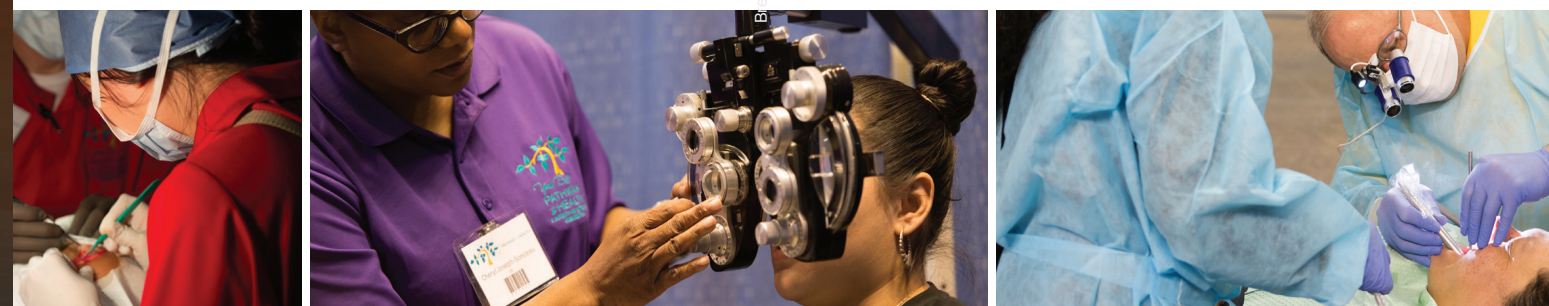
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