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Commander Liam's reputation is that of a hard man who has complete control over his country's military.

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Soon his resident "witch" began to notice the change in him and demanded to know who was sending the messages. She said, "That woman you're listening to has a magic more powerful than mine—I want some of that power! It gives me a strange sense of peace I haven't felt before. How can I receive these messages too?"

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Adventist Journey

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My Journey

Back2Basics is an inclusive publication. It's a reflection of the young adults we see in our church. When they interact with the magazine, whether it be on Instagram, on Facebook, through the website, or in the app, I feel as though they know their voice will be heard, even if it's just me reading their comments and reposting or retweeting.

Visit vimeo.com/nadadventist/ajbrittanywinkfield for more of Winkfield's story.

BRITTANY WINKFIELD,
publisher of Back2Basics magazine, living in Denver, Colorado

Brittany Winkfield



Cover photo by Erik Stenbakken

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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Online Impact and Inspiration Through God's Grace

Young adult **Brittany Winkfield** is a magazine publisher, communication pro, wife, and mother.

BY KIMBERLY LUSTE MARAN

With a mother who is a professional radio personality and a father who is a disc jockey, communication is in Brittany Winkfield's blood. It should come as no surprise that the young adult entrepreneur is successfully managing a career as a magazine editor and publisher of her own start-up, as well as balancing the roles of communication professional, wife, and mother. Winkfield is the publisher of the digital *Back2Basics Magazine*; and she has valued career roles that include communications director for the Central States Conference, marketing and events coordinator for the Denver Chamber of Commerce, and events coordinator at the Huntsville/Madison Chamber of Commerce. This native of Denver, Colorado, also cherishes her role as the wife of Marcus, and mother of three daughters.

"As a mom, I've been practicing just giving *myself* more grace. We have our great days, and then we have some not-so-great days," said Winkfield. "I feel like I want to do everything perfect and everything right. But especially with my children, it's just important that I have time with them, even if we're not doing anything but just sitting in the living room and talking about some memories or watching home videos."

Being present in the moment no matter what kind of deadlines she's up against has become a priority for Winkfield. "Every day is an opportunity just to take it for that day, not thinking beyond what you can handle at the moment," she said. "I love a daily to-do list, but

just realizing that sometimes, at the end of the day, if that list is not even touched it's OK. We're not here for a long time, and time has become so valuable—how I spend it is dependent on what I find to be important. God places our family in our lives, and I'm thankful [for] my family."

Family Matters

After a Central States Conference young adult event Winkfield leaped in faith and, in 2013, started figuring out how to run her magazine for young adults. "It's amazing how God works and how the opportunities will open up at different seasons and different points in your life," she said.

Winkfield's connection with God is what fuels her passion and gives her the energy for all the aspects of her life. Her journey with God, and becoming an Adventist, started in an early season of life—her childhood. Winkfield and her mother used to go to a Sunday church when she was little. She remembers praying and having a strong bond with God. "My Adventist journey began when I was 5 years old," she said. "At the time, my mom was looking for childcare. I was at a local elementary school, and she went to the front office asking if there was anyone she could get in touch with for after-school care. The front office put her in touch with a young woman named Terri Roston." Not only was Roston within walking distance from the school, but some of her own children attended the school, and she also ran a home day care. And one more thing: Roston was an Adventist.

Winkfield enjoyed going to the Rostons' house after school and became close friends with their children. Soon her afterschool days turned into weekends at the Rostons' and eventually grew to family trips with them. "To this day I call them my chosen family. I named them my godparents because they were the ones to introduce me to the faith."

During those weekend visits Winkfield would attend church on Saturday. Winkfields' mom's work schedule was somewhat unpredictable, so she was thankful for the Rostons—and the families are still close. "They have become my girls' grandparents, and their daughters are like sisters to me."

The local Adventist church, now called the New Community Seventh-day Adventist Church,



The Winkfield family Photo provided by Brittany Winkfield

also became family. And through Bible study and other lessons, Winkfield got baptized at 16. “I remember thinking, *I have to get baptized*. I wanted to make that commitment to God, and ever since then I’ve just been open to what He has for me,” she said.

Winkfield graduated from high school and applied to only one school: Oakwood University in Huntsville,

Alabama. Not only did Winkfield graduate as senior class president in 2008—she met her future husband there. They married in 2009 and now have three daughters. “God is so good. We just want them to know and love God the same as we know Him.”

Crediting her faith journey to a “divine appointment,” Winkfield shared that one of the best decisions her mom made was sending her to the Rostons. “The blessings from that decision continue,” said Winkfield. “Even my mom is coming to the church.”

Working Toward a Photo Finish

“I had aspired to be a photojournalist,” Winkfield shared. “My ultimate dream job was to be a photo editor. At the time it was *Vibe* magazine, so while I was a student at Oakwood University I did acquire an internship at *Vibe*. This was in the heart of New York City. Here I was, a Denver, Colorado, girl just feeling like going to Huntsville alone was a culture shock, and then going to New York City, I knew that’s where I needed to be.”

Although during the three-month internship Winkfield soon realized New York wasn’t the place she wanted to live and grow up and raise a family in, the experience she had at *Vibe* magazine opened the door to a whole new world. Winkfield could now imagine what kind of impact she might have through not just photos, but words—telling stories of individuals who may not otherwise have a platform. Winkfield, a college sophomore, was offered a job at *Vibe*, but she declined. “I think it was God’s plan for me to finish my education at Oakwood,” she said. “I studied photojournalism as well as print journalism, and got my degree in communications. Then I started working at the chamber of commerce in Huntsville for a few years in event planning. Even that was still under the umbrella of communication, just coordinating with clients’ details of their business happenings.”



Photo by Erik Stenbakken

Winkfield's connection with God is what fuels her passion.

After a season of prayer and looking for God's leading in their lives, the couple moved to Denver, where Winkfield started working at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. She enjoyed the job, but felt as though something was missing. She wanted to quit and do the ministry of *Back2Basics* full-time. At that time she and Marcus were also growing their family. "I wanted to be home with our little ones—and I also wanted to see what God could do if I committed 100 percent of my [work] time to the publication."

Winkfield felt God's urgings. "I went to the small business center at the chamber with a business plan. I felt as though there was no stopping me. There was some solid material to really build financial stability and scale the publication to be this big deal," Winkfield explained. "Once I had that plan, it gave me the confidence to leave the job. But it was not too long after when the sponsorships and ads I thought I'd get were not coming in at all. No matter how many e-mails I sent, how many phone calls I made, I would usually not get a response. When I did, it was often a 'No' or 'Not this time' or 'Not interested.' All the 'No's became really discouraging."

But Winkfield's faith didn't waver. "I still felt God was using this magazine and using me to speak to even just a small group of people," she said. She'd talk to pastors, explaining what she hoped to do with the publication. She'd ask for advice, and she continued to follow the business plan. "For a long time there was zero income, and so I

had to find creative ways to pivot again," she shared. "I was able to do graphic design freelance work for previous relationships that I had. And when things weren't working out how I thought they would, I'd find another alternative to fill whatever need I had at the time."

Eventually the young adult Christian magazine started to flourish, growing from a dozen subscribers to more than 6,000 today. The publication doesn't have a big team of salespeople, writers, photographers. It does, however, have a network of people Winkfield built where she can go for content and other needs. Winkfield has been able to tell the stories of many, including remarkable "ordinary" people and celebrities.

A Reason to Continue

"One story that I love starts with a time we were behind deadline and came out on the fourth of the month instead of the first," Winkfield related. Her team was working on a story in response to the pop culture television show about suicide called *13 Reasons Why*. The *Back2Basics* story, "13 Reasons Why Not," was about applying Scripture to reasons to live.

"I was worried about the date, but as soon as we sent it out someone wrote an e-mail. They said, 'I was contemplating suicide last night. This is so on time and just helpful to me.' That alone still resonates with the writers and me. . . . We pray for our readers. I am thankful that the content can be relevant to a life-or-death situation. That was something that will forever give me that fuel or reason to continue."

"We know God. Thinking of all the providing He's done and not having to worry too much about anything gives me great joy," Winkfield added. "I'm hopeful that we'll get a bit more back to normal soon.

And I'm joyous to think about the opportunities with the publication and how we can reflect on the time of the pandemic to something even brighter and better than what *Back2Basics* was before. 'Joy' is one of my words. I'm hopeful and joyous for whatever the future holds."

Kimberly Luste Maran is editor of Adventist Journey; with contributions from Erik Stenbakken.

Photo by Erik Stenbakken



About *Back2Basics* Magazine

Back2Basics Magazine (B2B) is a free online publication for young adults. Its subscription base is more than 6,000 and growing. Founded in 2012, B2B launched at the Central States Conference Youth Congress. During the past few years the company has flourished and expanded beyond the pages of its flagship magazine to generate brand extensions, such as ventures in digital media (mobile app, music, and video) and a dynamic website. B2B is on Apple and Android mobile platforms. It is also on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest. Visit www.Back2BasicsMag.com to learn more.



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enditnow VIRTUAL SUMMIT ON ABUSE DRAWS DIVERSE AUDIENCE

BY MYLON MEDLEY

The 2020 enditnow Summit on Abuse took place virtually November 13 and 14, 2020, streaming on the enditnow website, on Facebook and YouTube. The annual event organized by the North American Division (NAD) was created to help empower church leaders, school administrators and teachers, pastors, and members to recognize the signs of abuse, follow laws and protocols when reporting abuse, and help heal victims of abuse. Education and resources shared help attendees identify the various types of abuse—physical, sexual, emotional, financial, verbal, and spiritual—and understand its pervasiveness in the church.

“I thank Erica Jones of NAD women’s ministries and her team for hosting and organizing this vital discussion,” said G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, at the beginning of the summit. “We need to do a better job acknowledging that abuse is also in our churches and schools. . . . No matter your position or role, each of us has a voice and has the ability to stand up against abuse, no matter the form. May the Lord help us and guide us to stand up for people who are suffering from abuse.”

Part of the Church Toolkit

The two-day conference was streamed in English and Spanish, and hosted by Julio Muñoz,

associate director of NAD communication, and Tony Anobile, NAD vice president of multilingual ministries. As of November 18 the English broadcast received more than 9,100 views collectively on Facebook and YouTube, and the Spanish program received 4,430 views. That number continues to grow as more people watch the archived summit.

Attendees of both programs represented all parts of the world, including different regions of the United States and Canada, all the way to the United Kingdom, Western Europe, East Africa, South America, and even Japan. Counselors were also available for attendees to speak to privately via direct messages on the enditnow Facebook page.

← Mary DeMuth presents “Abuse in Faith Communities” during the 2020 enditnow Virtual Summit on Abuse November 13 and 14, 2020. *Screenshot of the enditnow event*

Four topics were covered for each broadcast by different presenters: “Church Toolkit: Practical Tips and Resources for Safe Churches and Schools,” by Rene Drumm, professor of social work at the University of Southern Mississippi (English), and Ruben Muriente Delgado, outreach coordinator for the Family Justice Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee (Spanish); “How to Protect Children and Youth,” by Ingrid Weiss Slikkers, director of the International Center for Trauma Education and Care at Andrews University (English), and Julian Melgosa, associate director of Education for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (Spanish); and “Digging out of the Pit of Spiritual Abuse,” by Douglas Tilstra, vice president for student life at Walla Walla University (English), and Jorge E. Rico, professor of theology for Southwestern Adventist University (Spanish).

What Are We Doing About It?

Mary DeMuth presented “Abuse in Faith Communities” for both broadcasts. DeMuth is a renowned speaker and author of 40 books, including *We Too: How the Church Can Respond Redemptively to the Sexual Abuse Crisis*. DeMuth shared her story about how she was repeatedly molested by her babysitter’s male friends when she was 5 years old. She stressed the need to weep with those who have been harmed, make proactive policies to protect children, and allow people who have been abused to share their stories, which will help them feel less alone. She also said it’s important not to force forgiveness onto those who are still healing.

“Forgiveness is a choice and journey. Trauma is the gift that keeps on giving. It sticks like glue to your hearts and minds,” said DeMuth. “Be compassionate to those who are hurting. Do everything you can to prevent abuse. We need to take responsibility for what’s gone wrong. *We* [the church] need to ask God and people for forgiveness. We have not done this well.”

While this reality is devastating, it is unescapable. However, DeMuth and the other presenters of the November 13 program thanked enditnow for continually creating space and spreading awareness in hopes of making a difference in communities.

“There is a revival brewing underneath the surface. It comes from broken people acknowledging the need for Christ, and works through broken people. Abuse has been an issue since the beginning of church history. God is shedding a holy light on this issue and asking, ‘What are you doing about it?’” said DeMuth. “Conferences like this give me hope. I’m more encouraged now



↑ Ruben Muriente Delgado presents in Spanish at the 2020 virtual enditnow Summit on Abuse.. *Screenshot of the enditnow event*

than I’ve ever been during my whole Christian life. Saying my story out loud, being given this opportunity, is a real blessing.”

Visit the enditnow website Facebook page or the NAD YouTube page watch the summit in English or Spanish. Resources, such as a “decision tree” created by enditnow that serves as a simple, easy-to-use guide on how to carry out initial steps upon hearing of abuse, and other materials can also be found on the enditnow website.

If you (or someone you know) are in need of help, visit www.enditnownorthamerica.org/get-help.

Mylon Medley is an assistant director of communication for the NAD.

New Documentary Series

ChurchToo is a three-part documentary series that aims to shed light on the reality of abuse in faith communities and what we can do to end it. ChurchToo was produced by enditnowNorthAmerica in collaboration with the Adventist Learning Community and SonScreen Films. The docuseries premiered on the NAD enditnow Facebook page on December 11, 2020, and can be watched at www.facebook.com/enditnowNAD.

NAD NEWS BRIEFS



Guide Magazine Publishes a Story-based Book About Adventist Fundamental Beliefs

Guide magazine managing editor Laura Sámano has compiled 28 true stories, one for each of the Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs, and written Bible study questions for each belief in the new book *What We Believe*.

Taken from the weekly magazine for readers ages 10–14, the book’s stories, which include stories of Adventist pioneers as well as contemporary protagonists, introduce kids to each of the church’s fundamental beliefs. Sámano, who is excited about the release of the book, said, “No Adventist publisher has ever produced a book for this age group with the kid-friendly approach of storytelling and study questions.”

Jesus spent a lot of His time on earth teaching by using parables, otherwise known as stories. “Stories remain the most powerful means of transmitting information,” says *Guide* editor Lori Futcher. “Barriers crumble as the reader or listener begins to relate with the character and become receptive to the message the story

is meant to teach. When a story is memorable, that lesson may impact the reader for a lifetime. That is exactly what we pray this book will do.”

“Digging in the Word,” the Bible study portion of the book, can be used within a small group or by individuals. “Not everyone learns in isolation; some want to talk about what we learn. This book allows for that sort of interaction,” says Sámano.

This book is available at www.AdventistBook-Center.com.

— *Pacific Press Publishing Association*



← *What We Believe* is available for purchase from Pacific Press Publishing Association.

NAD Youth and Young Adult Ministries Announces New Resources on Playbook Website

The North American Division Youth and Young Adult Ministry OneTeam is pleased to announce the opening of its #OneTeamNAD Playbook website. This is a division-wide, multilevel training platform for youth and young adult ministries. It’s an extension of the 2020 OneTeam Playbook virtual training convention that took place late last year. Leaders in these ministries are encouraged to utilize the tools provided on this website.

#OneTeamNAD Playbook is a repository of training from the 2020 OneTeam NAD Playbook Convention. The training is geared primarily toward union conference and conference youth and young adult ministries directors, coordinators, pastors, and leaders. The two areas of training are certification tracks and workshop tracks.

“Our goal is that this website will serve our union, conference, and church leaders well during this pandemic time,” said Tracy Wood, NAD youth and young adult ministries director. We pray that [this] will be a resource where youth and young adult ministry leaders can continue their education and sharpen their ministry skills.”

—*Kimberly Luste Maran, NAD Communication*

NewsPoints ON THE AIR Is Division's First Official podcast.

Last fall the NAD Office of Communication started the division's first official podcast as an extension of the weekly digital newsletter, NAD NewsPoints. With a dozen podcast episodes available on topics ranging from seasonal affective disorder to COVID-19 expert updates, resources to stop/prevent abuse, and civic responsibilities, NewsPoints ON THE AIR airs twice a month. Mylon Medley, assistant director of NAD communication, produces, edits, and hosts the show. Executive producers of NewsPoints ON THE AIR are Dan Weber, director of NAD communication, and Julio Muñoz and Kimberly Luste Maran, the department's associate directors.

Episodes have covered a variety of topics, including safely reentering public spaces as it relates to COVID-19, featuring Dr. Vincent Hsu, internal medicine, infectious diseases, and preventive medicine physician

at AdventHealth; understanding the role of civic engagement in Adventism, featuring Orlan Johnson, director of NAD public affairs and religious liberty; using an authentic chai recipe as a means of storytelling, featuring Kevin Wilson, pastor and viral TikTok sensation; and navigating the effects of daylight saving time, featuring Dominique Gummet, certified well-being expert and transformation coach.

The podcast came to fruition after Medley successfully pitched the show to the Communication Department and the division's leadership, which includes NAD officers, vice presidents, and special assistants to the president. The leaders thanked Medley for seeing the void and creating a solution.

"In her presentation Mylon highlighted the growth and consumption of podcasts among young adults, one of the core, target audiences of the NAD

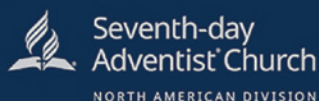
administration. They saw this as an opportunity to empower a young adult to reach out to her own community," Weber said.

"I'm excited that Mylon is using NewsPoints ON THE AIR to further our goal of reaching all our members in the NAD territory."

"I'm especially grateful for the support from NAD leadership, who did not hesitate to greenlight this endeavor," added Medley. "They understood the need for the division to enter into the booming podcast world with a creative take on spreading the message of hope and wholeness. I don't take that for granted."

NAD NewsPoints ON THE AIR is available on the North American Division Facebook page and popular podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google. Listeners are encouraged to subscribe and share the program with their family and friends.

—NAD Office of Communication



Mylon Medley, assistant director of NAD communication and host of NewsPoints ON THE AIR, leads a conversation on the importance of gratitude with Will Johns, author and a pastor of the Beltsville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland. Screen capture from podcast interview



THREE COSMIC MESSAGES



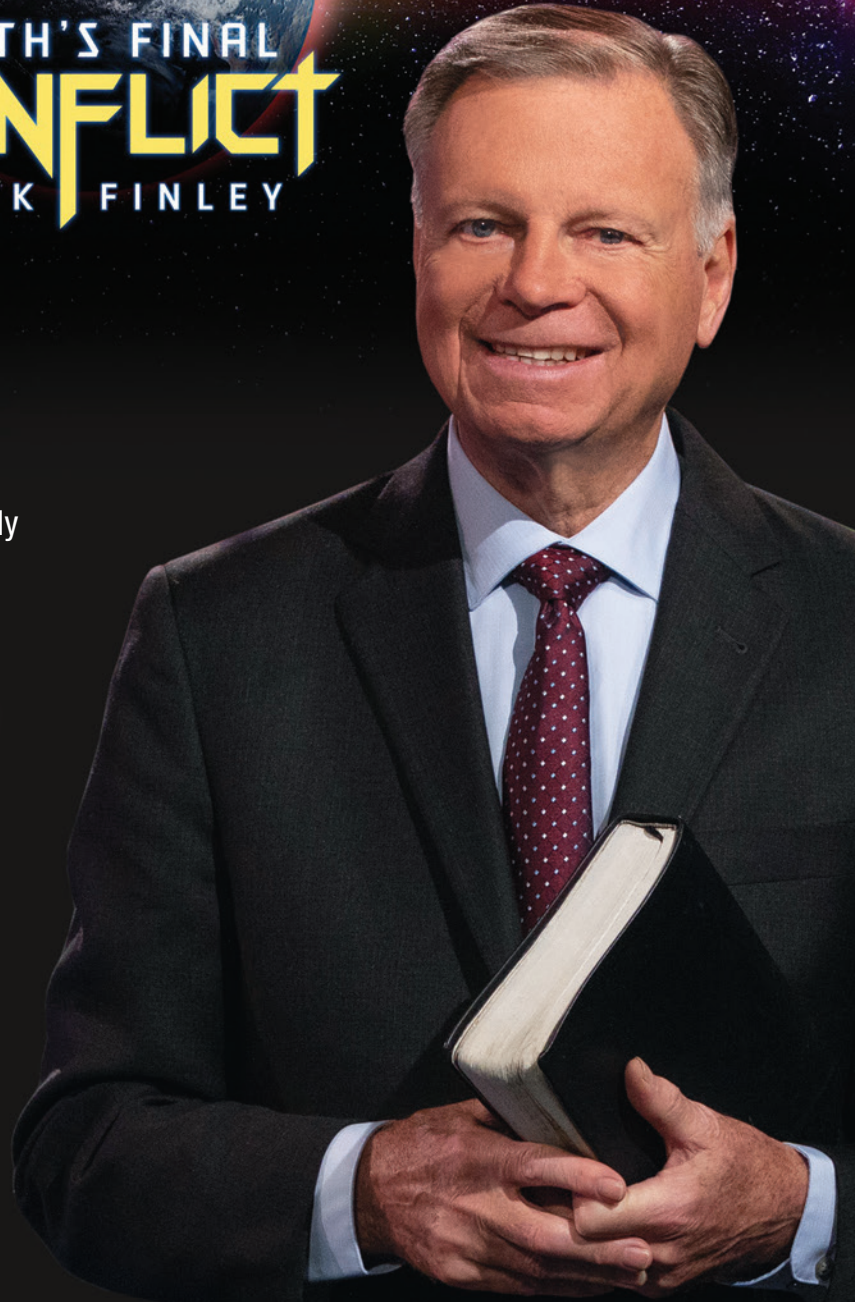
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BY CAROLYN R. FORREST

When We Pray

She was strong, committed, and determined to live for and be like Jesus. She read and studied her Bible daily. She cared for others—fed, clothed, nursed, housed, visited, taught about Jesus, and sang/prayed for and with others. Her purpose in life and her greatest joy, she often said, was to tell everyone about Jesus Christ.

We called her a prayer warrior. She called it “storming the mercy seat.” I recall on Friday nights and early Sabbath mornings joining her in prayer for family, friends, the church, the community, and various needs locally and around the world. She was instrumental in many people (including me) being baptized, recommitting their life to Jesus, and/or becoming members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

She was my “G,” my second mother or godmother, Glenes M. Robinson (May 1933-April 2020). Sitting at her feet, I learned what happens *when we pray*: God hears our prayers, and He either is silent or will answer according to His will and time. Through the years, when God has been silent to my prayer requests, it has built my faith and trust in Jesus. I also learned that a relationship with Jesus, coupled with prayer, is like breathing, and without breathing, we perish.

Three additional key points I learned from G about prayer.

Speak with the Lord often. Make time to read your Bible and talk with God every day. Ellen White wrote: “In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life. Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”¹

Forgive those who hurt you. When we pray, we must always remember, “Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:11, NIV). Consider the Bible story of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35. “He who had so recently been forgiven was not tenderhearted and pitiful. . . . But the great lesson of

the parable lies in the contrast between God’s compassion and man’s hardheartedness; in the fact that God’s forgiving mercy is to be the measure of our own. . . . We are not forgiven *because* we forgive, but *as* we forgive. The ground of all forgiveness is found in the unmerited love of God, but by our attitude toward others we show whether we have made that love our own.”²

Pray and work for those who do not know Jesus. I prayed for many years for family and friends to recommit or accept Jesus for the first time as Lord of their lives. I participated in and witnessed several loved ones and friends recommit or make their decision to follow Jesus. Ellen White observed: “Begin to pray for souls; come near to Christ, close to His bleeding side. Let a meek and quiet spirit adorn your lives, and let your earnest, broken, humble petitions ascend to Him for wisdom that you may have success in saving not only your own soul, but the souls of others.”³

Make prayer a significant part of your personal worship time and add Bible or devotional book reading. It will change your life. I plan to read *This Far by Faith: Devotionals From the Black Experience*, by C. E. Hodges, as part of Black History Month this February. Make time for prayer; Jesus is only a breath away.

Make time for prayer; Jesus is only a breath away.

¹ Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1956), p. 93.

² Ellen G. White, *Christ’s Object Lessons* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1900, 1941), pp. 245-251.

³ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 1, p. 513.

Carolyn R. Forrest is associate secretary-director for Secretariat and Office of Human Relations for the North American Division.

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