

# NEWSPOINTS

January 28, 2026



## **The 7th Annual North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists' Religious Freedom**

Prayer Breakfast was held on Jan. 14, 2026, at the NAD headquarters, in honor of National Religious Freedom Day. The gathering was not simply a ceremonial observance — it was a living response to the call to move beyond “quietude” and actively defend the right of conscience.

[MORE](#)



**Two Indigenous students from Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS) flew to Abu Dhabi to attend the January 13, 2026 Zayed Sustainability Prize Award ceremonies and are bringing home the \$150,000 USD prize in the “Global High Schools — The Americas” category.** [MORE](#)



**Sunday rest proposal raises troubling religious liberty concerns — the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists responds. [READ](#) the response.**



**As of fall quarter, La Sierra University experienced a 26 percent surge in new freshmen for the 2025-2026 school year, a 38 percent increase in new graduate students, and a 24 percent increase in total new students, ending several years of enrollment losses. “We are thrilled by the highly encouraging increase in our enrollment**



**There’s a powerful question every church should ask: *If we closed tomorrow, would the community notice —and would it matter?* For the Living Word Seventh-day Adventist Church in Glen Burnie, Md., the answer is a resounding "yes." This congregation has become a cornerstone of hope and support. [MORE](#)**

## JOURNALISM FOR ADVENTIST SOLUTIONS GRANT

Versacare Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of a new grant initiative supporting journalism within the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. The Journalism for Adventist Solutions (JAS) grant aims to promote ethical reporting and diverse storytelling by encouraging integrity, creativity, and journalistic excellence through targeted grant funding.



<https://www.versacare.org/our-grants/grant-jas/>

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numbers,” said La Sierra University President Christon Arthur. [MORE](#)

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## ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS

[These Whole-Health Habits May Slow Your Brain’s Aging, Groundbreaking Study Reveals \(Fla.\)](#)

[Pine Mountain Lake Lady Niners Give \\$10,000 to Support Local Cancer Patients \(Calif.\)](#)

[Adventist Health Tillamook Receives Significant Gift From Bill Block Foundation \(Ore.\)](#)

[Nurses Graduate From RN Residency Program \(Calif.\)](#)

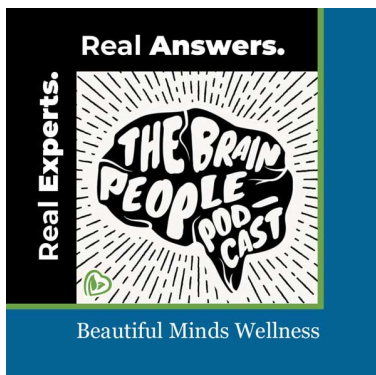
[Adventist Health Sierra Vista Announces \\$220 Million Capital Expansion \(Calif.\)](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES



**Our regularly scheduled NAD NewsPoints will be not be published next week.** Please check out the NAD's social media ([Facebook](#), Twitter (X), [Instagram](#)) for new content, or visit the NAD Homepage for [news](#) and much more. [Click here](#) to read/watch *Adventist Journey* magazine stories and videos.



**The mind and mental wellness is the focus of a new health program being added** to the LifeTalk Radio line up, beginning this January. “The Brain People” is a podcast featuring a host of various topics dealing with mental health and emotional wellness. There is so much to learn about the brain. The mind holds an infinite potential to love,hurt, grieve, grow

and thrive. Discover more about your brain. Check the complete program schedule for your time zone at:

[lifetalk.net/program-schedule](http://lifetalk.net/program-schedule).

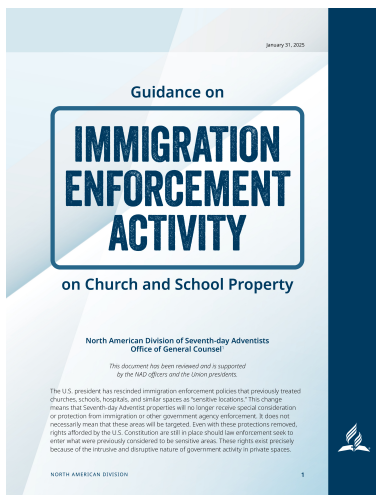


**HeSaidGoXP is a high-energy, three-day experience crafted to spark passion, purpose, and a heart for service in the next generation of leaders**—especially college students and young adults from across North America. Through hands-on XP Labs, compelling speakers, and interactive sessions, participants will discover how their unique gifts and passions connect with both global and local mission opportunities. HeSaidGoXP is about cultivating a missional identity. It's a space where stories, skills, and spiritual callings collide to shape bold, faith-driven leaders ready to impact the world with compassion and conviction. Click [here](#) to learn more.

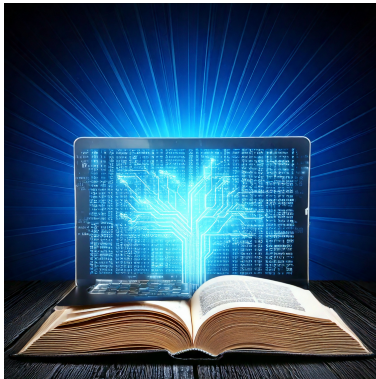


**Faith for Today presents "The Funny Thing About Sadness,"** a powerful one-hour television special that explores how God can transform pain into purpose. Hosted by Roy Ice and featuring Nikki DeLoach, Drew Lynch, and Danny Trejo, this program weaves together real stories of loss, laughter, and faith. Tune in and be inspired—then share the program with friends. For local listings, visit [ABC.com](http://ABC.com) or [lifestyle.org/shows/funny-thing](http://lifestyle.org/shows/funny-thing). Discover how faith can turn sadness into strength, and how God brings joy and new purpose through every season of life.

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



versions have been published and all are also available under the [NAD website "Guidelines"](#) tab.



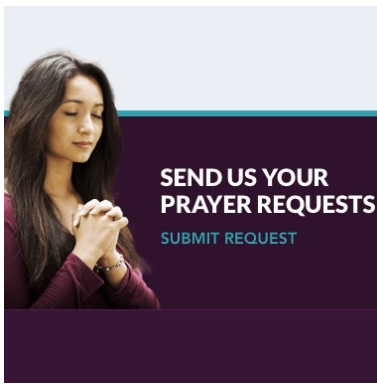
## Take your ministry beyond the pulpit and into the digital world.

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



**Join us for an engaging discussion of religious freedom issues on our show Faith and Politics.** From laws that impact faith communities to challenges facing religious organizations and communities around the world, our experienced panel of experts will provide thoughtful insight on these fundamental questions of liberty. Visit [faihandpolitics.tv](#) today!

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



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



**Jesus 101 has the perfect daily devotional podcast to help you connect to God daily.** *Jesus Wins!* is an audio devotional that revisits the stories of Jesus, touches on His graceful ways, and shares applicable truths found in His simple yet profound messages. Listeners can see His tender, loving care for those around Him. No element of His life is too small to provide insight, and these insights will revitalize your life! Click [here](#) for access to these free daily devotionals.

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

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# ADVENTIST JOURNEY



**Cover:** *Barbara Jean McDavid, church volunteer in Las Vegas, Nevada*

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**Welcome** "On the Journey Together" by Kimberly Maran, p. 04

**From the President's Desk** "Messengers of Hope" by G. Alexander Bryant, p. 5

**Cover Feature** "The Adventist Journey of Barbara Jean McDavid" by Art Brondo, pp. 6-7

**NAD Year-End Meeting Update** "Not by Might, nor by Power: NAD Officers Give

**NAD Update** "Why Are You Waiting?" Reach Baltimore 'Vespers'" by Becky St. Clair, Evan Knott, V. Michelle Bernard, and Christelle Agboka pp. 30-31

**NAD Year-End Meeting Update** "New Digital Evangelism Initiative Announced During President's Report at Year-End Meeting" by Kimberly Luste Maran, p. 32-33

**Feature** "Faith on the Move: The Story of the North American Division's First 40 Years" by Bonita Joyner Shields and Michael W. Campbell, pp. 34-35

**Footsteps of Faith** "Breaking Down Barriers With the Morning Star" by Michael W. Campbell p. 36-37

**NAD News Briefs** "Former North American Division Health Ministries Director DeWitt S. Williams Passes to His Rest," "The Funny Thing About Sadness' — Turning Pain Into Purpose on ABC," "Hispanic Leaders Unite for Pentecost 2025 Convention," "Christian Record Services Announces Dexter Thomas as New President," pp. 38-40

**Perspective** "The Great Reset: The

Annual Reports" by Christelle Agboka and Becky St. Clair, pp. 08-13

Jubilee Year!" by Washington Johnson II, p. 41

**NAD Year-End Meeting Update** "NAD Leadership Elected for the Quinquennium at Year-End Meeting" by Christelle Agboka, Heidi Straw Camargo, and Becky St. Clair, p. 14-15

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

**Adventist Review Section** pp.17-26

*This magazine is mailed to Adventists in North America; [click](#) to view the January/February issue online. **Video interview will be available soon.***

**NAD Year-End Meeting Update** Sabbath Sermon Summary "Oneness in Christ" by Julio Muñoz, pp. 28-29

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## VIEWPOINTS



### **More Blessed to Give**

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

## NAD MEDIA MINISTRIES



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## NAD UNION COMMUNICATION PARTNERS

Atlantic Union Conference

Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada

Columbia Union Conference

Lake Union Conference

Mid-America Union Conference

**North Pacific Union Conference**

**Pacific Union Conference**

**Southern Union Conference**

**Southwestern Union Conference**

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