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Seminarian to Serve God and Country

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Seminarian to serve God and country

“I’ve always wanted to serve in the military. My father was in Vietnam, my brother was a marine, but every time I tried to join, right after high school and again following 9/11, my dad talked me out of it. So I started looking in other directions.”

Baptized into the Adventist church as a young adult, Jameel Daniels thought maybe he could become a pastor, but quickly realized he didn’t want to be a traditional one — he wanted to minister to others in a different way.

Regardless of his life’s direction, Daniels knew he needed to learn more, so he enrolled in the Seminary. When he received an email from the dean’s office with a list of scholarship opportunities, one in particular jumped out at him.

Screaming Rock Media offered \$3,000 to two students who demonstrated thoughtful research and spiritual study on a topic relevant to Adventist history. Applicants were to write a research paper and present a 20-minute sermon. Daniels’ topic was justification by faith.

“My research confirmed something I’d suspected but had never heard proven: justification by faith has always been the standard in God’s plan,” he says. “Even before sin.”

Daniels’ sermon and six-page paper were selected for one of the scholarship awards.

“The result of my research affirmed my trust in God,” says Daniels. “It undergirded the love I have for him, and further illuminated how he feels about me.”

With only a few months left in school, Daniels began to feel the



Jameel Daniels, a seminary student, was awarded \$3,000 for his research paper and sermon about justification by faith.

pressure of nailing down a direction for his life. Though he felt strongly that he was being called to ministry, he still didn’t feel cut out for traditional pastoral roles. One Sabbath, on their way to church, Daniels turned to his wife and made a request.

“I asked her to pray with me, because I was sure that God wouldn’t give me the passion to serve and not give me the ability to do it,” he says. “Then it hit us: What about military chaplaincy? I knew then what God was calling me to do.”

The only missing piece was the blessing of Daniels’ non-Adventist father who had twice talked him out of joining the military. So Daniels prayed for courage and called his dad.

“It was an easy conversation, actually,” Daniels says. “He said that if

I feel God is leading, I should do it.”

Daniels reports for Navy officer’s school at the end of this year, then he and his wife will spend two years in Huntsville, Ala., where Daniels intends to pastor for two years to meet the requirements to apply for active duty as a Navy chaplain.

“I’ve learned so much during my time at Andrews,” he says. “I know more of who God is, more of who I am, and how to hear his voice. With the support of both my earthly father and my Heavenly Father, I know I’m walking the path I’m meant to walk.”

To learn more about the Seminary, visit <http://andrews.edu/sem>, email seminary@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3537.

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