

5-2017

Mishap to Mission

Felecia Datus
Andrews University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-students>

Recommended Citation

Datus, Felecia, "Mishap to Mission" (2017). *Stories - Students*. 15.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-students/15>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Lake Union Herald at Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Stories - Students by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8242
 Publisher..... Don Livesay president@lakeunion.org
 Editor..... Gary Burns editor@lakeunion.org
 Managing Editor..... Debbie Michel herald@lakeunion.org
 Circulation/Back Pages Editor..... Judi Doty circulation@lakeunion.org
 Art Direction/Design..... Robert Mason
 Proofreader..... Susan K. Slikkers

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Health System... Anthony Vera Cruz Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org
 Andrews University..... Rebecca May RMay@andrews.edu
 Illinois..... Shona Cross scross@ilcsda.org
 Indiana..... Steve Poenitz spoenitz@indysda.org
 Lake Region..... Paul Young communication@lakeregionsda.org
 Michigan..... Andy Im aim@misda.org
 Wisconsin..... Juanita Edge jedge@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Health System... Anthony Vera Cruz Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org
 Andrews University..... Becky St. Clair stclair@andrews.edu
 Illinois..... Shona Cross scross@ilcsda.org
 Indiana..... Colleen Kelly colleenkelly1244@gmail.com
 Lake Region..... Paul Young communication@lakeregionsda.org
 Michigan..... Julie Clark jclark@misda.org
 Wisconsin..... Deidre Roat droat@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8200
 President..... Don Livesay
 Secretary..... Maurice Valentine
 Treasurer..... Glenn Scott
 Vice President..... Carmelo Mercado
 Associate Treasurer..... Richard Moore
 Associate Treasurer..... Jon Corder
 ACSDR..... Diana Bruch
 ASI..... Carmelo Mercado
 Communication..... Gary Burns
 Communication Associate..... Debbie Michel
 Education..... Linda Fuchs
 Education Associate..... Barbara Livesay
 Education Associate..... Ruth Horton
 Health..... Randy Griffin
 Multiethnic Ministries..... Carmelo Mercado
 Information Services..... Sean Parker
 Ministerial..... Maurice Valentine
 Native Ministries..... Gary Burns
 Public Affairs and Religious Liberty..... Nicholas Miller
 Trust Services..... Jon Corder
 Women's Ministries..... Barbara Livesay
 Youth Ministries..... Ron Whitehead

LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

Adventist Health System: Terry Shaw, president/CEO, 900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407-357-1000.

Andrews University: Andrea Luxton, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.

Illinois: Ray Pichette, president; Ron Aguilera, secretary; Michael Daum, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; 630-856-2850.

Indiana: Steve Poenitz, president; Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer; street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.

Lake Region: R. Clifford Jones, president; Timothy Nixon, secretary; Yvonne Collins, treasurer; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; 773-846-2661.

Michigan: Jay Gallimore, president; James Micheff Jr., secretary; Leroy Bruch, treasurer; street address: 320 W. St. Joseph St., Lansing, MI 48933; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909; 517-316-1500.

Wisconsin: Michael G. Edge, president; Brian Stephan, secretary/treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River, WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932; 920-484-6555.

Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

Mishap to Mission

BY FELECIA DATUS

“Tony is a pure blessing from God for this mission,” says Beatriz Rodriguez, founder of Africa Mission for Jesus. She tells of how Tony Ponterio Jr., sophomore Theology student at Andrews University, keeps the New Jersey-based mission going.



Tony Ponterio Jr.

At the age of 19, Tony sustained an injury during training in the Marines. Although he pleaded with God to heal his shoulders, the prayer went seemingly unanswered and he was discharged. Tony, angered, turned his back on God and the little he knew of him. He had not heard much mention of Jesus until he ended up working as an electrician and became the helper of a man named Paul who taught him about God and his Word. Soon after, Tony gave his life to the Lord and began serving at his local church as a Sabbath school teacher and deacon. However, he craved greater service. “I wanted to do more for the Lord because he did so much for me.”

One Sabbath, Beatriz received a letter from Ghana requesting used books that could be distributed to teach people about God. Tony began to help Beatriz. He collected clothing, shoes, books and other materials from church members and anyone else willing to donate. He would take them to Beatriz who then shipped them to Africa. His regular financial contributions purchased Bibles in Twi Asante, one of the common dialects of the people. Eventually, he visited Ghana with Beatriz and attended the dedication of the school founded as a result of their work. “Africa changed my whole perspective on what it is to be a Christian, practically,” Tony says of the experience.

“It amazes me that he is so involved in mission,” Beatriz says, marveling at the young man’s willingness to serve so unselfishly. Beatriz suffered a terrible car accident years ago that left her unable to read or write and, as she gets older, serving has become more difficult. Knowing this, Tony handles the tasks that involves writing and reading, including receiving emails from the mission workers in Ghana and reading them to Beatriz. Because of his steadfast dedication, over 1,000 persons surrendered their lives to Christ in Ghana and the school established caters now to more than 400 students.

Felecia Datus is a graduate student at Andrews University in the Department of Visual Art, Communication and Design.

Address Correction

Only paid subscribers should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members should contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all *Lake Union Herald* address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right. Online submissions can be made at <http://herald.lakeunion.org> under “Subscription Change.”

Lake Union Herald Office: 269-473-8242
Illinois: 630-856-2874
Indiana: 317-844-6201 ext. 241

Lake Region: 773-846-2661
Michigan: 517-316-1552
Wisconsin: 920-484-6555

Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.50 (per year) to P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287. **Note:** If you are a member of a church in the Lake Union but are not receiving the *Lake Union Herald*, please request it through your church clerk or your local conference secretary.

