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# Gifted for His Glory

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## Gifted for His Glory

BY BENNETT SHELLEY

I have always loved to talk. From the very moment I entered this world until now, I've used my lungs to make my presence known, though not always in the most respectful manner. Even so, this inexhaustible talent has proven to be of great use. Through it, I have made many friends, a number of enemies, developed good social skills, and found many different avenues through which to witness.

One of these very avenues has blessed me tremendously, and is an amazingly simple way to witness — the telephone. After relocating to Berrien Springs, Michigan, nearly two years ago, I began to search for part-time employment. From bagging groceries at the local market to serving as the organist for a local church, I gained knowledge and enrichment through all sorts of degrees of labor.

Even though these jobs proved beneficial to developing my work ethic, I wasn't completely satisfied. I felt there was a more important work to be done — something that would use more of my God-given talents.

Finally, after a time of unemployment and waiting for the right job, I was offered a position at Adventist Information Ministry (AIM) on the Andrews University campus. To say the least, I was very excited about this position. As I completed orientation and began to work, I started to feel as though I had found the right work environment for me. The organization's management tried its very best to ensure that all employees felt as equals and a part of the AIM family. Parties and dinners were held throughout the year, birthdays were recognized and celebrated, and staff members even were included in morning worship programs. There was no denying it: I had found the right workplace for me.



Bennett Shelley

Lyle Daniel/Sciole Vision Photography

As a customer service representative, my duties include answering telephones, assisting customers and submitting orders — all tasks that fit well with my social and speaking abilities. I love the more professional office environment, and always enjoy striking up a good conversation with a long-winded customer.

I began to realize this job was the calling I had felt before. AIM was definitely a ministry — an organization that represents other Adventist ministries such as Amazing Facts and It Is Written, but I hadn't truly grasped the fact that I was a part of it all and, in a way, a missionary. It seemed like a foreign concept to serve as a missionary on the telephone.

I have been blessed tremendously as I have witnessed through prayer, offering biblical advice, and simply conversation. Hearing a person's attitude change from the start of the telephone conversation to the end is something that makes my day every time, and proves to me that God can use any form of work for his glory. He has shown me that all forms of work are valuable.

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10 NIV).*

Bennett Shelley graduated from Andrews Academy last May. He currently is studying English and music (with emphases in creative writing and organ) at Andrews University. Bennett is a member of Pioneer Memorial Church.