The Andrews Reach
Andrea Luxton, president

Each time our Cabinet team meets we start by looking at Scripture. Last year we focused on the gospel of John. This year we are reading and reflecting on the book of Acts. Last week was the beginning, Acts 1, with its focus on change, transitions and yet hope. And right there in Acts 1:8 is that powerful promise: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

I reflected on that promise and challenge during the August graduation weekend that immediately followed our Cabinet conversation. As I walked around, greeted and congratulated various graduates and their families it was humbling to remember how much Andrews University does reach out to the ends of the earth. In addition to the students that study on the Andrews University main campus, 20 percent of whom are from countries other than the U.S., we have students regularly studying with us in their own countries, or in other nearby countries. Some study online, some study in cohorts taught by our faculty, some study with faculty from their countries approved by Andrews. But they are all very much Andrews students. So I shook hands with individuals who had never been on our physical campus before but were graduating with our degree, and how excited they were. I remember personally meeting individuals from Kenya, Vietnam, Ecuador, Trinidad and Italy to name a few. I met others from across the U.S., including Hawaii, that felt part of “us,” impacted by the Andrews experience, yet the impact had been from a distance.

Reports from our Integrated Marketing & Communication team confirmed the reach I experienced. 9,600 individuals tuned in to watch all or part of the Sunday graduation service nationally and internationally and many were sending online messages when their family member or friend walked across the stage.

I said this reach was humbling. It is. We have a God-given responsibility to live the gospel, to represent the gospel and the Seventh-day Adventist message throughout Berrien County, and in all Michigan and North America, and to the ends of the earth. We should not, and I believe do not, take that mission lightly. This reach is also exciting, for just as with Acts there is a promise along with the challenge. That is the promise of the wisdom and the power and the strength to be those witnesses as we ask for those gifts.

So we ask for your prayers too. Andrews University has a unique role in relation to the world and the church. It can reach to the ends of the earth. Yes, we educate. We educate and must educate well. Yet we do so in the context of the gospel and of that gospel we always bear witness.

Thank you.

Andrews University

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24  The Next Chapter
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28  Andrews Legacy
The Alumni Association celebrates the legacy connection by taking photos of the students and/or families during new student orientation.
Dear Editor,

Thank you for the very nice piece on Alan Mitchell’s retirement from his position as a professor in the Department of Music and conductor of the Andrews University Wind Symphony in the spring 2017, FOCUS. Although I never had the opportunity to perform with the Wind Symphony as a student, I have had the privilege of participating in the Wind Symphony as a community member for the past eight academic years and of touring with them to Germany, Spain and Italy.

During all that time, and on all those tours, I was constantly impressed with his musicianship, conducting skill, and his unfailing patience and courtesy toward his student musicians, all a testament to his commitment to musical excellence and to the welfare of his students.

Again, my thanks for a very nice tribute to a fine musician/teacher, and a good man.

Bruce R. Wright (EdD ’84)