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He Provides

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He Provides

BY CATRINA LESURE

I remember my sophomore year in college, sitting in the library of Andrews University studying. I felt a sense of God's presence. It wasn't unusual to feel His presence. Morning and evening worships were special times for me to commune with God. But this was the middle of the afternoon, in the midst of Introduction to Linear Algebra homework!

I put down my pencil and sat still, soaking in that moment of peace and pleasantness. Then, I felt God speak, "This isn't what I had in mind for you." I smiled in agreement. Linear Algebra wasn't going the way I'd planned either. But God didn't stop there. "Education is a great field and you would be a good teacher, but that's not what I want you to do." This statement jarred me. I was confused. All my life I had wanted to be a teacher. All my life I had wanted to teach middle school math and science. *How could God be telling me now, in the middle of my studies, that what I'd believed all my life was wrong?*

I waited, trying to formulate a response. Finally, I said, "Okay, Lord, what did You have in mind?"

I was mortified by what God said next: "Seminary."

That was the end of the conversation for me. There wasn't anything left to be said. The answer was "No." I would be a good teacher, and education was the field I'd dreamed about since I was a child. There was no way I was switching to become a pastor.

I graduated in 2007 with a B.S. in Elementary Education, and was hired within a month as a math teacher. The first year was good, but I constantly felt this tugging at my heart, this questioning — *Is this really it?*



I spent several years trying to convince myself that I was happy as a teacher, but my actions gave me away. I found myself volunteering to work with Pathfinders, teach Youth Sabbath school, and work with Adventist Youth. The moments I spent planning for my church involvement were the moments I loved most. I was thrilled by the excitement of my Pathfinders during campouts and the insight of my youth in Sabbath school. The nagging continued.

Eventually, I realized I wouldn't be happy as a teacher because God had called me to be and do something different. But

now I had a different problem; I couldn't afford to quit my job and definitely couldn't afford to attend the seminary.

In December 2012, I prayed and then took a step forward. I quit my job and called the Financial Aid Department at Andrews University to discuss my options for paying for school. Within a month, I'd made arrangements to cover my schooling, been hired to work at the Center for Youth Evangelism, and started my first classes toward my degree. God has shown me through this experience that if I simply follow Him, He will provide for me.

Catrina LeSure attends Andrews University Theological Seminary where she is working toward a Master's in Youth and Young Adult Ministries. She is a member of the Praise Fellowship Church in South Bend, Indiana.