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Keri Suarez
Andrews University

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God Reveals His Plans

LEILANI LANGDON
CAREER DEVELOPMENT COUNSELOR
FOR ANDREWS COUNSELING & TESTING CENTER

As a career development counselor at the Andrews University Counseling & Testing Center, Leilani Langdon works one-on-one with students, helping them discover God's will for their career path. During her college career, God used dreams to show Leilani Langdon His plans for her. —Author

It was 2002, and Leilani Langdon was getting ready to start her college career at Rutgers University. One night, just two weeks before she was set to leave, Leilani had a dream. She dreamed of a faith-based school in a small, rural town far away from home in Willingboro, New Jersey. The next morning, at breakfast, Leilani told her mother about her dream. “My mother dropped her spoon and said, ‘Oh, my goodness, Leilani! I had that same dream!’”

Together they started doing some research to discover which school was in their dreams. “Now I know it was Andrews; but at that time, despite growing up as a Seventh-day Adventist, I didn’t know anything about the Adventist school system. I didn’t even know Andrews existed,” Leilani says. “It was complete turmoil. I didn’t have a relationship with God and had some resentment at the time. I had not been looking to start my educational career at a Seventh-day Adventist school. But my mother told me, ‘Leilani, God works in mysterious ways. If He gave us both this dream, there must be a reason. Why don’t you just apply?’”

So, two weeks later, Leilani and her family arrived at Andrews University. “It just felt right,” she says. Leilani was soon asked to audition for the singing group, Divinity, and was offered a spot. “That was the beginning. I felt God orchestrated that experience for me so I could begin to be intrigued about Him again.”

The Divinity members met regularly and had Bible studies. “At the end of every meeting, I would walk out saying to myself, *I want what they have*. There was this longing in my heart to have a relationship with God,” Leilani said.

In February of her second year of college, Divinity was scheduled to travel to a church in Saginaw, Michigan, for a concert. Before the trip, Leilani had another dream. In this dream, she saw an octagon-shaped church sanctuary with blue carpet and blue-cushioned pews. “In my dream, there was a choir singing with rails on the sides of the stage and behind them. There were also two people being baptized.”

Despite awakening the day of the concert with an unsettled feeling, Leilani traveled with Divinity to Saginaw. “At the church, something felt familiar — but I couldn’t quite put my finger on why.” Chaplain Tim Nixon, from Andrews University,

was the guest speaker that day. As he preached, a realization hit Leilani — this was the church in her dream! “Then I heard God say to me, ‘Leilani, you are going to be rebaptized today.’” It was a cold, February day, and the baptismal tank wasn’t set up. No one was expecting a baptism that day.

“I told God, ‘If you want me to be rebaptized, you need to have the speaker make an appeal,’” said Leilani. “I told God what I needed to hear the speaker say; but when Tim was done, he sat down with no mention of a baptism,” she continued.

After a moment, Tim stood back up and told the congregation the Lord had impressed him to make an appeal. Leilani recalled, “He said word-for-word what I had asked God to have him say.” That afternoon, Leilani and another young man were baptized in the blue-carpeted, octagon-shaped church with the choir singing. “I had such peace,” Leilani remembered.

From leading her to Andrews to connecting her to Divinity to opening the way for her to be rebaptized, God led in Leilani’s life. And it didn’t stop there. Countless times, Leilani has asked God to show her the way. God faithfully answers her prayers and, each time, Leilani faithfully obeys His leading.

“God has done amazing things in my life, and these are just a few of the countless experiences where God has led me by the hand. He not only led me to Andrews University and to rebaptism but to be a student missionary and, later, revealed to me my husband, Adrian,” said Leilani. “It’s like a puzzle — you can’t put it together unless you have the image to focus on and guide you. It’s the same thing with my life. I focus on Him, letting Him lead. He faithfully continues to put the pieces of my life together. Following God is the best decision I ever made, and I’ll never look back.”

Keri Suarez is a media relations specialist in the Division of Integrated Marketing & Communication at Andrews University.



From left (clockwise): Leilani sings on the day of her baptism.; Leilani and her husband, Adrian, enjoy a fun moment.; Leilani stands with her parents, Vivian and Abraham Mercado, and her brother, Abe Mercado Jr.; Leilani was baptized by Rob Peters, then a dean of men at Meier Hall.; Leilani poses with the Divinity singing group.; and Leilani and her family celebrate her graduation from Andrews University.