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Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Teacher Receives Excellence in Teaching Award

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[EDUCATION NEWS]

Andrews students change the world for Honduran girl

Michigan—During the last couple of years, the Department of Physical Therapy at Andrews University has worked with REACH International (Render Effective Aid to Children) to take students on short-term mission trips to a Honduras orphanage. The idea first surfaced when a physical



A group of 21 Andrews University students and five physical therapist traveled to Honduras in 2008 where they assisted grateful individuals, assisted in the education of the Santa Barbara hospital staff and joined ADRA on a mission. Back home, they reached out to a Honduran girl they met on the trip, and their touch changed her life.

therapy student approached Kimberly Coleman, clinical education coordinator, and said, “You know, there are dental, vision and medical mission trips. Why don’t we do something in PT?”

From that spark, a 2008 physical therapy mission trip, which took 21 Andrews University students and five physical therapists to Honduras, was launched. Coleman was impressed with the effort’s turnout. “I had no idea when I put my sign-up list on the door that so many people would come forward.”

In Honduras, the group made home visits to those in need and took trips to the villages in nearby mountain ranges where they made lasting contacts with grateful individuals. They also assisted in the education of the Santa Barbara hospital staff and joined Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) on a mission.

Yet the highlight of their trip, interestingly, did not happen in Honduras. Back at Andrews, a couple of members of the class of 2008 stood up at a

banquet and challenged their classmates to send funds back to Honduras to pay for the corrective surgery of a young girl they met on the trip. The child, afflicted with osteoporosis, needed rods removed from her legs. When she was younger, the rods were inserted by doctors to stabilize her weakened legs. The price tag of the surgery, which also included reconstruction of her feet, amounted to \$1,300. The Andrews students rallied together and completely funded the surgery out of their own pockets.

Coleman was impressed with their actions, especially in light of the student loan debt many new graduates are already locked into. “To see the response of the students while they were there and even afterward was just amazing,” she said.

Princess Williams, a graduate student who attended the trip, said, “The trip to Honduras made me more open to doing mission work in the future. I learned that I can use whatever talents God has given me to do His work, no matter how insignificant they might seem.”

“Change the world” is not just a coined phrase at Andrews University—it’s a way of life.

Andre Weston, intern, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University

[EDUCATION NEWS]

Susan Joshua memorizes 2,500 Bible verses

Michigan—If you memorized one verse from the Bible every day for six years you still wouldn’t have as much text under your belt as Susan Joshua. On April 16, she was presented with the Johnston Bible Memorization Award for the fifth time at the Andrews Awards Assembly, bringing her total verses memorized to 2,500.

The award, given out during the

Andrews Awards Assembly each spring, was founded by Madeline Johnston and named in honor of her husband Robert, upon his retirement from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

Susan, whose husband Calvin is studying at Andrews University, initially began memorizing texts for her debut attempt at the award in 2004. At first, her efforts were based on a misunderstanding of the contest. Calvin, who worked as a janitor, told Susan about fliers announcing what appeared to be a \$750 prize for memorizing 500 Bible verses. Five hundred memory

verses later, Calvin reluctantly reported to his wife he had misread the flier. The \$750 referred to a different award. The Johnston Bible Memorization Award offered a free Bible as a prize.

The next time the contest came, Susan entered with no thought of a cash reward as a motive. She memorized a second set of 500 verses in 2006 and went on to win the award again in 2007 and 2008—an additional 500 each time. Susan describes the “satisfaction of having the Word of God hidden in my heart” as one of the most rewarding parts of what she does.

Although 2,500 verses is an im-

pressive feat, it was not Susan's first experience with lengthy memorization. While she was living in India, she says, "I took up the challenge of memorizing Psalm 119." Susan was asked to recite it—the longest chapter in the Bible—during the worship hour.

Susan describes her reason for memorizing Scripture as an effort to "stay comforted and close to God." In India, the Joshua family lived in the isolated Himalayas. While her husband was away doing Bible work, Susan was at home by herself. Scripture memorization became a source of consolation.

In addition to solitude, writing the text in a journal, recording her

voice and listening to it helped her commit verses to memory. Susan's preferred translation is the King James Version. As a former English teacher in India, she appreciates the old language.

Calvin and Susan plan to return to India in August.

Andre Weston, student intern, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University



Andrews University president Niels-Erik Andreasen presents the Johnston Bible Memorization Award to Susan Joshua.

Ruth Murdoch Elementary School teacher receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Michigan—On May 6, TV anchor Tricia Sloma of 16 Morning News in South Bend, Ind., entered the library at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School with a balloon bouquet in hand and a cameraman in tow, to tell fourth-

grade teacher Laura Bowlby that she was selected to receive a 16 Excellence in Education Award. A very surprised Bowlby was in the school library reading with her students, including Bayley Schalk, the student who nominated her.

"Ms. Bowlby is very creative. She has taught our whole class how to knit (boys and girls) and she lets us knit after we finish our work. She also has lots of creative field trips for us to go on. We went bowling to learn about friction and to the grocery store to

learn about nutrition. We learned about caring for animals at the Humane Society and she taught us about directions with a compass journey around the campus of Andrews University. Ms. Bowlby's creativity makes her special," read Bayley's nomination letter.

Bayley's mother, Brenda Schalk, saw the call for entries on the local

TV station and encouraged Bayley to nominate her teacher. "Ms. Bowlby reminds me of Ms. Frizzle from "The Magic School Bus" (a children's cartoon). She's a very creative teacher," said Brenda.

Bowlby's creative attitude is an asset in her very diverse classroom. Her students and their families represent 20 countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Botswana, Brazil, China, Croatia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Samoa, South Africa, South Korea, Uganda, United States and Venezuela.

During the interview, Bowlby was asked how it felt to receive this award. "It's very overwhelming and very special," she said. "I think Bayley is a remarkable girl."

Each year, three Michiana (a seven-county region in northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan) teachers are given distinction for their commitment to high-quality education. In addition to the recognition and an award plaque, each teacher receives a \$1,000 savings bond and their school receives a check for \$250. Bowlby hopes to use the money to enhance an outdoor habitat her school is creating.

Keri Suarez, media relations specialist, Office of Integrated Marketing & Communication, Andrews University



Laura Bowlby's creative attitude is an asset in her very diverse classroom, where her students' families represent 20 countries.