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When God Changes Your “Never”

When Nancy Kardos-Moldovan was growing up, she used to tell people that she would “NEVER be a teacher.” Now, as she is completing her student teaching semester at Andrews University, she realizes that God really does have a sense of humor.

“He took that statement and redirected my career toward the very occupation I vowed I would never undertake,” she says. “Looking back, I can see that He was chiseling away at my ‘NEVER’ through teachers, professors, chaplains and support teams that I have had around me the whole time.”

Just as those people made a difference in Nancy’s life, she now has the opportunity to be a role model and mentor in her own students’ lives. The process of going through the Education program at Andrews University has helped Nancy spend time reflecting on the importance and purpose of Adventist education.

Nancy admits that Adventist education has been a major shaping factor in her view of how teaching should take place. One way this happened was through a school assignment to read through the book, *Education*, by Ellen G. White.

“Seeing students as fashioned in the image of God, with greater potential than teachers may often believe/notice has helped me rethink how I approach differentiation strategies and teaching in general,” Nancy reflects. “One of my favorite quotes from her book states, ‘It [education] has to do with the whole being and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the student

for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (page 5).

Nancy continues, “Granted, there are days when classroom management may take a toll on me, but having this belief to fall back on and reroute my thinking has helped me see the point and beauty of being a teacher. It is all about the students having the wholistic opportunity to foster a relationship with their Creator and Redeemer. That is what Adventist education is all about.”

Right now, Nancy is enjoying applying these principles as a student teacher at Andrews Academy. She currently teaches a 9th-grade Bible class from the new Encounter curriculum; she also is shadowing one of the biology courses with hopes of eventually teaching it.

“I am grateful for this experience. Not only is it a wonderful time to put all the learned strategies, methods and differentiation perspectives to the test, but it is a wonderful time to learn who I am as a teacher,” she says.

As a Secondary Education major with an emphasis in Religion and a minor in Biology, Nancy knows she will most likely go on to work in private schools. However, she acknowledges that she may be able to teach Biology in the public school system at a later point.

She states, “I do not know what the Lord has in store for me after this semester, but I will hold to His promise, *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye*” (Psalm 32:8, NKJV). ■

Hannah Gallant, University Communication student writer, Andrews University



Heaven Shin

▲ Nancy Kardos-Moldovan