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Student's "Preacher-Girl" podcast spreads messages of hope

When Rachel Arner was out for a run last summer, she wanted to listen to a podcast to pass the time. As she searched specifically for a program that was faith-based and uplifting, she found nothing. Rachel began to pray, telling God she was willing to start a podcast to encourage others in their walk with Him, but only if it was something He wanted her to do.

Six months passed quickly, and life became busy. Then, that December, Rachel's parents gave her a microphone (they hadn't forgotten her idea) and so her "PreacherGirl" podcast began.

Rachel uploads a new episode every two weeks, more frequently when possible. She aims to leave people feeling uplifted and inspired to continue pursuing a relationship with Christ. "I hope to be a positive impact in people's lives but, most importantly, encourage people in the way I have been encouraged by women and men of faith in my life."

Rachel, an Andrews University senior Religion major with a minor in Communication, believes God has called her to ministry. She has been motivated throughout her time at Andrews by professors Susan Zork, Heather Thompson Day and Rahel Wells to always keep God first and never give up. She is able to take what she has studied and learned through the years to make her podcast the best it can be.

Rachel selects podcast guests based on what she sees in their lives — people who have faith and a relationship with

Christ who can share their experience with listeners. Typically, an episode takes 45 minutes to record and an hour to edit and upload. Rachel's audience has grown to 350 listeners. Several have left reviews saying how blessed they have felt after hearing her podcast. One listener, from France, shared how he found her podcast on YouTube. After listening to an episode about depression, he explained that, in the midst of his own struggle with depression, the information was just the encouragement he needed to hear. Rachel comments, "I am always so grateful to hear that the podcast is helping people in their walk with God."

Rachel is most rewarded by knowing that she is doing what God wants her to do right now. "If someone had told me two years ago (as I was so uncertain and unsure of my purpose) that I would have a podcast, I would have said, 'What?' But God has a great way of leading in our lives. Once we are willing and open to Him working through us, He will open doors for us to share His love with others in places and ways we would have never imagined."

She continues, "Faith motivates me to keep creating content for my podcast. It's called 'PreacherGirl' for a reason. I believe God has called everyone to spread His love and joy to those around them. People are seeking hope like never before, and I love encouraging people. Life has never been easy, and I've learned to lean on God in every situation. I want to share that



Joelle Elizabeth Photography

▲ Rachel Arner

hope and strength I've found in Christ with other people." ■

Gillian Panigot, Media Communications manager and FOCUS editor, Andrews University.