A Firm Foundation

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A Firm Foundation

By Austin Rodgers

In Mark 2:17, during one of the many occasions in which the Pharisees (laughably) attempted to catch Jesus “violating” one of their many arbitrary statutes, Jesus emphatically replies that The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. While many sermons have been written on this verse’s implications as to how Seventh-day Adventists should keep the Sabbath, I would argue that a simpler truth surfaces from these words — humans need the Sabbath, not only for rest but also for fellowship and community. We are social beings, and leading solitary, work-driven lives would result in widespread feelings of unfulfillment and outright depression in many cases. As a college student, balancing a full course load while simultaneously participating in extracurriculars and holding down a job leaves precious little time to hang out with friends in a non-stressful context. As I’ve progressed in my academic and faith journeys, I’ve come to appreciate the church not only as a place of worship but as an institution providing much-needed community and an outlet from my responsibilities during the week. Like a large portion of my generation, our world’s church’s recent decisions on issues such as women’s ordination frustrate and dishearten me. Many of my peers feel as if our voice remains unheard on these matters, causing several of my fellow students to seriously question their religious affiliation. However, an important (albeit unfortunate) truth that applies to everything from religious organizations to nation states and the business world is easily forgotten: no organization is perfect. Bearing this in mind, no organization grows, prospers or progresses in any meaningful way by members of a disenfranchised group simply giving up and leaving. Instead, young adults, such as me, must continue to speak up on important issues. We are the next pastors, educators and leaders who will shape the future of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I intend to be part of the influence that takes on that challenge.

Elected to Serve

By Gillian Panigot

In the spring of my junior year, I was elected class president. Even before I knew the results, I was thrilled. I believed it was a sign from God that I was on the right track in my faith journey. Throughout high school, I had always felt called to serve in leadership positions. As I entered college, I knew I wanted to continue that path and make a difference in the world.

When I started my freshman year at Andrews Academy, I wanted to become involved in the school’s extracurricular activities. I considered running for class office but, coming from a small school, I didn’t think I had a chance. I was surprised when my classmates unanimously elected me as class president.

I immediately knew that I wanted to use this opportunity to influence others and grow as a leader. I realized that being a class president wasn’t just about winning an election, but about being a good steward of my term. I spent a lot of time planning events, leading meetings, and representing the interests of my classmates.

Looking back, I’m grateful for the experience. It taught me the importance of listening to others, being accountable, and working hard to achieve my goals. I’m proud of the positive impact I made on my classmates and the school as a whole.

In the end, I realized that the experience was a gift from God. It was a way for me to grow as a leader, a team player, and a person. I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve and excited to see what the future holds.