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David Sherwin

▲ President emeritus Niels-Erik Andreasen and Dominique Gummelt, director of University Wellness and executive director of the Andreasen Center

Ribbon Cutting Celebration for Andreasen Center for Wellness

On Thursday, Sept. 26, hundreds of individuals from the Andrews University community gathered in front of the Andreasen Center for Wellness for the Ribbon Cutting Celebration.

David Faehner, vice president for University Advancement, recalled the groundbreaking of the Andreasen Center for Wellness 18 months prior and noted that 1,400 gifts from many people had added up to provide the building. He also recognized Niels-Erik Andreasen, the Center's namesake, who served Andrews for 22 years.

Dominique Gummelt, director of University Wellness and executive director of the Andreasen Center, reflected on the purpose of the Center, saying, "It is the mission of the University Wellness initiative to help every person live their life to the fullest potential, and as we have started on this journey, the new Andreasen Center for Wellness will provide a new, massive pathway to make our desires for wellness become a reality."

Andrews University Graduate Student Association president Kenneth Choi shared a student perspective on the building, noting how it will better connect students on



▲ Twenty individuals participated in the Andreasen Center for Wellness ribbon cutting.

campus. "Now we have a reason to get up in the morning and take a short walk.... this is a place for us to hang out and to get healthy at the same time. To socialize and to get fit. This is an opportunity for us to bring together all the different students, all the different people on our campus, as well."

The director of the Counseling & Testing Center, Judith Fisher, noted that faculty and staff also are looking forward to a healthier campus. "Our Andrews University world premiere changing institution has partnered once more with a community of friends, and today celebrates yet another investment destined to yield life-transforming results. This is an electrifying moment for each one of us, faculty, staff, members of this community of faith, who have watched with anticipation as this edifice emerged. And now, at last, the moment has come. The state-of-the-art wellness center is a symbol of our pledge to prioritizing the nurturing of our minds, our bodies and our souls as faithful stewards created in the image of a healthy God."

Michael Hildebrand, president of Oronoko Township, brought his congratulations to Andrews University and posed the question, "What if the community joined together with the University and chose to be the healthiest community in the world?" He added, "I don't even know if that's an achievable moniker, but it might be a conversation worth having."

Next, Paul Stokstad, co-chair of the President's Council, shared his reflections. He said, "This is the high day for Andrews, and hopefully it will be a high day that continues on for year and year and year thereafter. So, Lord, we thank you for this wonderful gift, and we use it to your glory!"

Dan Carrick, district director for Michigan Senator Kim LaSata, shared a tribute on behalf of LaSata, State Representative Brad Paquette and Congressman Fred Upton. The message noted, "The determination exhibited by the University is an effort to provide and establish the importance of wellness to all individuals, both on campus and throughout the entire community." It also stated, "Perhaps the most important characteristic of [the] Andreasen Center for Wellness is that the Center will focus on connecting wellness to the Creator."

President Andrea Luxton reiterated the hope that the Andreasen Center for Wellness will be a place for both members of the campus and wider community to connect. She encouraged those in attendance to take the gift of the book, *Rest and Redemption* by Niels-Erik Andreasen, published as a special edition by the Andrews University Press. She also noted there would be plaques recognizing donors as well as room names representing various locations around the world that Andrews students call home. In particular, Luxton emphasized

three individuals honored in the Center for Wellness: Barbara Friesen, a faculty member who was committed to bettering lives through wellness; Dick Scott, a staff member who engaged with every area of campus and lived the mission of Andrews in every action he took; and Newton Hoilette, former vice president for Student Affairs who worked to deepen the student experience.

President emeritus Niels-Erik Andreasen noted, "This Center is attractive and inviting, bright inside and out, spacious and filled with exciting opportunities designed to keep us well and in good health. It is making the University a good place for students, faculty, staff, friends and neighbors to meet, a second 'hello building' on our campus, and I am pleased and honored to provide it with its name."

The Andrews University Andreasen Center for Wellness officially opened for business on Sunday, Oct. 6. To learn more about the Center and for information about becoming a member, please visit andrews.edu/wellnesscenter. ■

Gillian Panigot, Media Communications manager and FOCUS editor

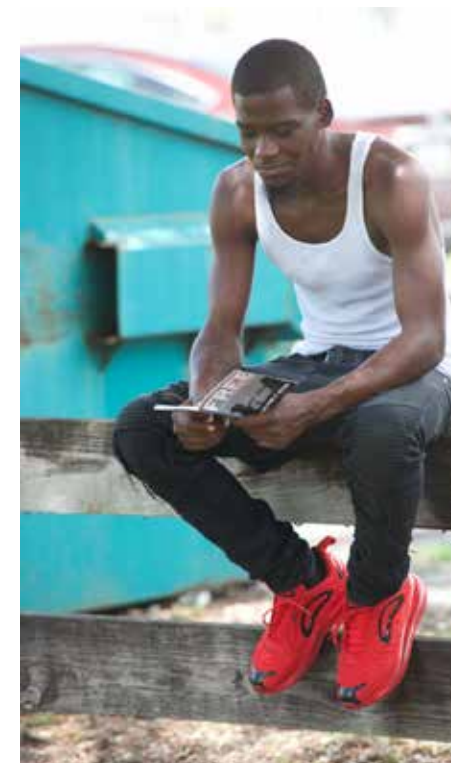


Photo courtesy Breath of Life Ministries

▲ Community member in the Miami area reads a copy of *FREE: Revisiting God's Plan for Oppressed People*, which was distributed by local church members.

Breath of Life Ministries empowers members, publishes its first book for literature evangelism

Carlton P. Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries and senior pastor of Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Ala., believes spiritual health is partially dependent on personal involvement in outreach. One way Byrd

encourages members to be active participants in sharing the gospel is through literature distribution. While organizing members to distribute literature isn't a new concept, for some churches, it is a newly revived practice that generates a lot of enthusiasm.

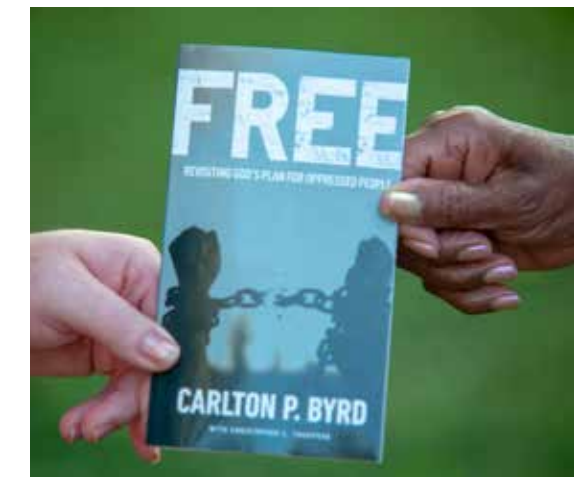
"Praise God for the spoken word and the sung word, but some will be won by reading the Word of God and truth-filled literature. I am a proponent of literature because when literature goes out, it can go places we can't go," said Byrd.

This emphasis birthed Breath of Life's first sharing book, *FREE: Revisiting God's Plan for Oppressed People*, co-authored by Byrd and Christopher C. Thompson, Communication and Marketing director for Breath of Life. The pocket-sized volume points readers to a Deliverer who is concerned about the social, economic and political circumstances that oppress people and suppress the voices of millions in America and around the world.

Released on June 19, *FREE* has already been distributed to hundreds of people in preparation for the ministry's public evangelism meetings. Several churches in Miami have shared the book throughout their neighborhoods, but especially in the city's Brownsville community.

After receiving a copy and reading several of its pages, one community member said, "Thank you for this. I love this!"

Brownsville is the home of Bethany Church, which served as the location of the "Breath of Life Summer Revival."



At the end of the revival, Byrd and area pastors baptized 120 people into the Adventist Church.

"It is Breath of Life's sincere desire that this project will help empower local churches to similarly experience the joy of personal outreach in preparation for public evangelism," said Byrd. "Jesus isn't coming anywhere until the gospel goes everywhere." ■

Christopher Thompson, Communication and Marketing director, Breath of Life Ministries, and Carl McRoy, director of Literature Ministries, North American Division