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The Power of Humility

Andrea Luxton

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The Power of Humility

Andrea Luxton, *president*

I WAS REMINDED RECENTLY OF A TIME when I was so wrong! I was living in England, and a colleague and I had a visit from a friend from Andrews University. I was the UK native and so I was delighted to show the friend around. He was eager to see a cathedral that he had read about and so with me confidently at the wheel, we made our way there. Mistake number one: my renowned bad sense of direction should have confirmed to me that I should not be confident. But we arrived and started looking around. Mistake number two: I could see straight away that this did not look right but I didn't want to admit it. Twenty minutes later after some false impressed smiles from my friends, I had to make the correction!! We made our way out, down the road and there it was! The cathedral in all its true glory. My friends smirked. I cringed! I suddenly became humbled!

Those of us committed to education have so many reasons to be humble! Remember how you walk into a dissertation defense, with all of the unknowns swirling in your head! Of course you do fine because you still know more about this topic than the others in the room, but you also know better than to assume that means you have it all right. The more we study, the more educated we are, the more we realize we don't know, and the more the reasons to be humble.

Those of us who are faithful Christians also have so many reasons to be humble. The closer we get to God, the more we realize our limitations of understanding, the more we know that there is so much we don't know, the more we recognize that God's ways are mysterious and that while we frame our beliefs and actions around what we do understand, what we believe God is showing us, there is still so much we don't know.

Christ's humility is of a different nature than ours. According to Philipians he humbled himself to become

like us, in fact a triple humbling: to leave heaven, to become human and then to accept the indignity of the cross. And there, for a while, in his human state, Christ too did not know, for he experienced that separation from the all-knowing God.

At Andrews University we have adopted several values for our employees: one is that of humility. That value recognizes that yes, we can be wrong. Yes, we can sometimes not know. Not just on an academic level but also even on a human level. We may have been wrong with you sometimes. We may not have represented Christ and the Adventist church as we should. We have reason to be humble. And with humility comes that important understanding that sometimes while we try and make a good parish church be a cathedral because we don't want to be wrong, in reality, God is pointing us to recognize that the cathedral is truly just down the road if we would open our eyes.

That is what I believe makes a good Adventist university great. The humility to realize that there is more: more to learn, more places to go, more of God's voice to hear, always. That is the "great" I want Andrews University to be—consistently.



Editor

Gillian Panigot (BA '06, MA '08)
focus@andrews.edu | 269-471-3348

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Patricia Spangler (BS '04)

Contributing Editors

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