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Changing Season: Changing Times

Andrea Luxton

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Changing Seasons: Changing Times

Andrea Luxton, *president*

ONE OF THE PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE that I am drawn to is Ecclesiastes 3. Here the man of wisdom notes that there is a time and a season for everything, from birth to death, from laughing to mourning, from sowing to reaping. But of course the most important part of this passage is verse 11: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

Here we have a reason for confidence and yet mystery at the same time. We plan around seasons, dates, times: those have been given us by God. And yet while we do that, God has His own timing, outside our time. He is in control. And there we can have confidence. And yet there is mystery, too, for what He has done nobody can fully understand. We can get glimpses into seeing God's hand at work in our lives, in our University, in our church, but we cannot begin to comprehend the depth of God's engagement with us or His plans for the future.

This edition of FOCUS comes out at around Christmas and New Year's. That is a period of time when we are astonished by the mystery of who God is and His gifts to us, especially the greatest gift of all in Jesus Christ. And yet, as the new begins it also gives us time to express new promises, define new hopes, within the confidence we have that God will continue to be present with us.

This season is also one of change for me. As I enjoy my final year at Andrews University as president, I want you to know that while the external seasons around me have been changing, and while time has been moving on, my experience

at Andrews has been overwhelmingly summer. I say that because despite the challenges, and there have been many, I have been working with an unparalleled team of Adventist Christian professionals, from staff to faculty to closer administrative colleagues. I have engaged with thousands of amazing students, whose engaging minds, energy and commitment to service and God speak powerfully for the future of this church and the wider community. And I have been uplifted by many of you as alumni and friends of the University in very valued and personal ways.

Yet even beyond all this, I have had the deep knowledge that all is firmly in God's hands. That is why I have had six (will be seven) amazing years experiencing God's presence and leading as president of Andrews University.

And that is why I believe the best is still to come. It is also why, as the next few months unfold, we can have continued certainty as a community, for He will truly continue to make everything beautiful in His time.



Editor

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

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