



Beyond the status quo

Andrea Luxton
President

Over the last few months, since my appointment as president at Andrews University, I have had letters, emails, texts, phone calls, conversations in the parking lot, conversations online, and each one has ended with, "I am praying for you."

Those prayers are hugely encouraging to me as I begin work in my new role at Andrews. They mean far more than even the wonderful edible fruits, chocolates and flowers I have received. It is good to know that in the middle of change at Andrews University and as we face new challenges and opportunities, that we are surrounded and supported by a community of praying believers.

As you know, over the last few months here in North America and around the world there has been an urgent need of prayer. What answer is there other than prayer in the face of terrorism, senseless violence, racial profiling and loss of life? I cannot believe God's response is anything other than the one Jesus had when looking over the city of Jerusalem: He looked into the future—the sins, the destruction of this beautiful city—and he was moved to tears. How can created beings, each with their unique value, devalue others who are similarly created in God's image? How can we perpetrate violence and engage in unthinking prejudice? Sometimes it seems our best response can only be prayer and tears.

I would suggest though that we have a responsibility as Christians, and as a Christian university, to go one step further than to pray and weep. I would suggest our prayers and tears must be unified with words and supported by actions that show there is a different way.

My academic background is in English literature and so I believe in the power of story. The Scriptures themselves also powerfully talk to us through story and I think this is one way we can begin.

At Andrews University in particular, and wherever we are in the world, as I listen to your story, as you speak to me transparently about your journey, maybe we can meet in a place that allows us to model the wonderful synergy that comes from our combined strengths and experiences.

I believe that Andrews University is in a unique position to fashion this type of community—again, not just on our Berrien Springs campus, but through the alumni who are spread across this nation and the world. We have not always done this right—we, as others, have taken the path of least resistance, and focused on ourselves, assuming safety is in the world we know.

Yet, Christ actively engaged in a world where service was more important than safety, where the values of the kingdom always trumped the values of the world. What would it look like if we, as a community, instead consistently lived the values of grace, compassion and forgiveness while we seek to find ever increasingly innovative ways to bring positive change to the world around us?

I very much look forward to my opportunity to serve as president at Andrews University. I look forward to finding answers to difficult questions with my colleagues, to listening to the alumni and constituency of this University, to engaging with the energy of our students. We want to and must make a difference in the stories of the lives of our students, of all who come in contact with Andrews University. We shall not accept the status quo. Let us build on our foundation of prayer a community rededicated to changing the world through word and action.

FOCUS

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by Andrea Luxton

President Luxton outlines her inspiring vision for the future of Andrews University and some of the changes she anticipates over the next five to seven years.

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by Becky St. Clair

Carlisle Sutton, an MDiv student at the Seminary, was convicted to do something to improve the lives of school children in Benton Harbor. He and a few friends formed the Human Empowerment Life Project (H.E.L.P.) and this year more than 100 volunteers have signed on.

22 "...a good time to have a Bible..."

by Samuel J. Fry and Becky St. Clair

Thousands of prison inmates across the U.S. are experiencing the power of the Gospel by receiving free Andrews Study Bibles, lesson helps and personal letters thanks to the dedication of a small church in Wyoming.

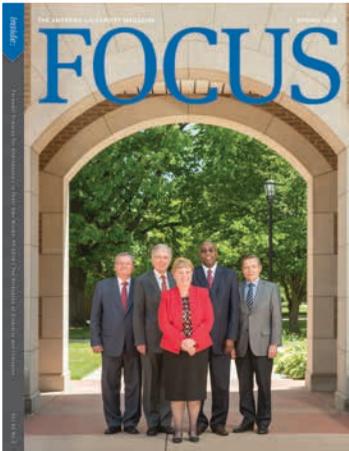
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Sharing the Good News

On the cover: See page 4 for the story about our cover photo. Photo: Darren Heslop, IMC staff photographer



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Visit Andrews University's YouTube page to view recent events, including President Luxton's State of the University address and University Convocation.

About the cover

Featured on the cover of this issue are Jennie Serrano, *right*, and Alessandra Pineda, a mother and daughter from the island of Honduras. They had never set foot on the Andrews University campus before arriving for new student orientation week. Alessandra knew someone who studied here so had heard of the school before. She also has a cousin planning to attend as a transfer student, who suggested that they do their college experience together. Alessandra says, "I was like... well... Andrews is a great school, let's just apply, and one thing led to another and now I'm here."

Before coming Alessandra visited the virtual tour online because she wanted to see the campus. "I wanted to see how close my dorm was to the cafeteria. I also looked at the church and the library and I saw most of the buildings," she explained. Jennie added, "She was also worried about the winters, too! It's hard to think about when you're from a Caribbean country—that it's going to get so cold."

Alessandra is looking forward to established seasons, explaining that back home it only rains for an hour or two and then it's

sunny again. This will be something completely new for both her and her cousin, Ivy Cooper, who is also attending Andrews for the first time. Ivy is majoring in psychology and Alessandra plans to be an elementary education major.

Even though Jennie and Alessandra are not Adventists themselves, they heard about Andrews University frequently in Honduras. Alessandra says, "that [not being an Adventist] wasn't a factor for my education. I wanted a place where I can be close to God and that's what mattered to me." She attended Roatan Bilingual School in Honduras for her primary and secondary education.

Jennie also likes the fact that it is a Christian university and feels comfortable about her daughter being here, even though she's far away from home for the first time. She also appreciated a personalized letter received from the University that helped to make her feel that Alessandra would be in good hands with people who cared about her.

Andrews is very pleased to welcome all the new freshmen as well as returning and transfer students to the 2016–2017 school year.

Don't forget to write

Letters are always welcome.

To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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Comments Solicited for Accreditation

Andrews University is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will host a visit March 13–14, 2017, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission. Andrews University has been accredited by HLC since 1939. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet HLC's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the university to the following address:

Public Comment on Andrews University
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on HLC's website at www.hlcommission.org/comment.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by February 12, 2017.