

Lost and Found

Andrea Luxton, *president*

AS I WRITE THIS, THANKSGIVING IS JUST around the corner, and it will have some special personal significance because of the events of this last week.

It started when I arrived home a week ago today to find that instead of two dogs jumping up and down as I arrived at the house, there was only one. The little one (born last Thanksgiving weekend) was completely missing. I looked everywhere. My nephew, who is the joint dog owner, came home and did exactly the same. Brodie was nowhere to be found.

Then started the search. I searched. But the search by my nephew knew no bounds. Posters, Facebook pages, a drone, social media of all types. Brodie's picture was everywhere on the internet, and shares were more than 2,000. In the process we learned how he had escaped from the yard and that he had been seen for around 30 minutes after that. Then nothing. He had apparently vanished.

For four days after that, life for my nephew stopped as the search continued.

Then day five began and a woman 25 miles away pulled up a post on her computer—one of the 2,000+ shares. She looked at the dog in the pictures and realized that a dog just like this had been wandering around her neighborhood for the last few days. She waited for the dog to come to the yard again and managed to get a picture of his back. She kept looking at the online images and the picture she had taken. After 30 minutes she decided to send a message along with her picture, "It is a longshot but..."

The picture was indistinct, but my nephew didn't think twice. He jumped in the car with the 3-year-old dog, traveled the 25 miles, tracked through the woods and local area. Nothing to start with and then... In the distance was something black... He started running, he called the dog by name and, well, what a reunion.

Great story and maybe a modern parable that would fit right in Luke 14

and 15, the chapters of the lost and found: sheep, coins and son, but most of all of the individual who never stopped seeking until the lost was found. But beyond that, this last week made me think of some other parallels, too. Many individuals were praying the dog would be found. My nephew looked and looked. Many others, including me, went into action. Prayers and action.

We talk about education and redemption being one, as Ellen White tells us. I believe that is true: God partners with us in passion for each person that studies with us. More than anything else, we want to see them redeemed, finding a home and identity with Christ, in a way that drives the decisions about their calling and their future. That is about the heavenly and human partnership that is so vital in what we do every day.

And one more point remains with me about this experience. Two thousand plus individuals decided to act and share the initial post. Who knows what share led to the discovery of the pup so far from home... It was in reality the caring community that acted together, joined by their sense of the wrongness of a stolen (as that is what must have happened) dog, that led to the reunion. The power of a community of faith, a University of faith, in action. Let nobody limit the power of that type of community.

As I write this it is on the cusp of another Thanksgiving and Christmas season. And today I am immensely thankful—for a found dog, yes, but also for the opportunity of being part of the human team God uses to partner with Him as He seeks to find and redeem at this University.



Editor

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

Associate Editor

Patricia Spangler (BS '04)

Contributing Editor

Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA '06, MBA '09)

Designer

Justin Jeffery (BMus '04)

Photographers

Clarissa Carbungco (att.)
Autumn Goodman (current student)
Darren Heslop (BFA '10)
Anthony Isensee (current student)
Andriy Kharkovyy (BBA '06, MBA '09)
Kevin Lembono (current student)
Lloyd Martinez (current student)
Christina Rogers (current student)
David Sherwin (BFA '82)
Julia Viniczay (current student)

Student Writers

Hannah Gallant (current student)
Esther Green (current student)
Moriah McDonald (current student)

Copy Editor

Alisa Williams (BS '06)

Andrews University

President

Andrea Luxton (MA '78)

Provost

Christon Arthur (BA '90, MA '95,
EdS '99, PhD '00)

Vice President for Financial Administration

Glenn "Chip" Meekma (att.)

Special Assistant to the President for University & Public Affairs

Stephen Payne

Vice President for Campus & Student Life

Frances Faehner (BSW '76, PhD '07)

Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion

Michael T. Nixon (BS '09)

Vice President for Marketing & Enrollment Management

Randy Graves (MA '72)

Vice President for University Advancement

David A. Faehner (MA '72)

FOCUS (ISSN 1077-9345) is published quarterly, free of charge, for alumni and friends of Andrews University, an institution owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The magazine's address is FOCUS, Office of University Communication, Andrews University, 8903 U.S. Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright © 2019 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Printed by Holland Litho Printing Service, Holland, MI. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs MI, and at additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to FOCUS Magazine, Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, 8714 E Campus Circle Dr, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email alumni@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3591.