

Preparation for eternity

Luis Kristopher Garibay is currently taking a double major in chemistry and mathematics at Andrews University. He grew up in a small town in Chiapas, Mexico, with his grandparents and learned about the Adventist message when he was 12 years old. After his baptism at 16, he decided he wanted to pursue a degree in chemistry at a Christian college.

Luis emigrated to the United States in 2008 and started his chemistry major at Andrews in spring 2009. When he took his first math class from Shandelle Henson, Calculus I, he became aware of its importance to real science. Realizing this, he decided to add a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He plans to graduate in spring 2013.

He says, "It has been an exciting journey and the Lord certainly has helped me to get through it. I have met amazing people who have enriched my life in many areas. I am glad to be at Andrews because the preparation that is being given to me by my professors is not just for this life but for eternity."

After graduation, he would like to pursue a doctorate degree in physical or analytical chemistry and then work in industry research. Luis has already been actively involved in research, at Northwestern University (summer 2011) and the University of Illinois at Champaign-



Luis K. Garibay, recipient of the Rick Cook Endowed Scholarship Fund

Urbana (summer 2012). He is also a member of the J.N. Andrews Honors Program and president of the mathematics honor society this year.

"Thank you for your support and for making my dreams possible. It would not have been possible without generous contributions like yours," Luis says.

Learning to teach well

Estrillita, which means "little star" in Spanish, actually hails from the northeast part of India from the state of Manipur. She comes from a large family of four boys and three girls who were all born and raised in India. Her parents brought them up in a strong spiritual family atmosphere where God's love was felt and He was trusted to always provide for their daily needs. Estrillita's father was a pastor and she supported him in his ministry by singing, which boosted her self-confidence and social skills. She graduated from Spicer Memorial College (SMC) at the age of 23 and then completed a Master of Arts in Education through Andrews University's affiliated program with SMC. Estrillita taught English to kindergartners in Thailand for the next five years, supporting herself and her younger brother. She says, "My parents always reminded us that the experience and knowledge gained during the course of education is something that will stay with us... no one can steal away that treasure of knowledge." They often remind her that patience, persistence and perseverance are the keys to success but above all to trust God, quoting Proverbs 3:6: "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths."

One important thing Estrillita learned while a kindergarten teacher was that if you give students enough attention and support during daily interactions, learning will eventually follow. When she saw that some of the students needed extra help she wasn't trained for she decided to return to school at Andrews University to obtain a degree in Special Education. She believes it will add more meaning to her profession and allow her to be a witness of her beliefs wherever God may lead her. "Being a student here in the U.S. is challenging, but by

God's grace I'm adapting well into the class and social environment. One thing that I've learned from being in this program is that everyone is different in his or her own unique way, just like fingerprints. No mind works the same way. Therefore, why do we expect students to learn the same way? I aim to teach according to their learning style so that they'll be interested to learn and I will avoid the mistake of expecting students to adapt to my teaching style."

Estrillita is supporting herself through this program and tuition fees are an ongoing challenge. She knows that God answered her prayers through the generosity of donors like William and Florence Nelson. "Without their help it wouldn't be possible for me to continue my education here at Andrews University. I'm truly thankful for the help given me and may God continue to bless them as they reach out to help students with their education."



Estrillita Shimray, recipient of the William and Florence Nelson Property Scholarship Fund