

The perfect job

Bill Keith retires after years of service in sales at Andrews

WILLIAM (BILL) KEITH HAS WORKED FOR Andrews at two points in his career. First, he was employed at University Printers as a salesperson for about a year and a half. Then, just over 15 years ago, when he was in the local area and looking for a job, he stopped to visit Rod Church at LithoTech. Rod offered Bill a part-time job in sales, where Bill served until 2004 when he went full-time as an accounts/sales manager.

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Prior to his time as staff, Bill studied industrial education at Andrews, graduating in 1965. Eventually he was hired by someone who needed an employee to do repairs and work sales.

He says, “I knew how to do repairs. The boss told me, ‘You do the repairs and I’ll teach you how to sell.’” From then on, he was hooked on sales. Ever since, Bill’s jobs

have always involved a large element of customer service and a clientele to maintain. His sales experience has ranged from industrial sales to covering a sales territory of six states to selling truck tires, forklift parts and life insurance.

At Andrews, Bill has appreciated the freedom to essentially operate like a business within a business. He acquired his own clients and handled the related customer service and estimates. His work paid off, as he developed a large clientele outside of the University that has at times accounted for approximately one-third of LithoTech’s work.

“It was very rewarding,” he says. “I got to meet a lot of people, some of whom I’ve never met in person. When you really enjoy your work and you help someone else out, it takes on more than just a client and salesman relationship. I’ve had many people who I’ve really come to like and appreciate and to be blessed by their friendship.”

Bill has seen God at work throughout his career and notes that he has come to a deeper, richer understanding of who God



is. “I ask the Lord every day what He has in store for me. God surprises me almost every day with something awesome that He does in my life. He’s given me a place to work like this, and through that process I’ve met and talked with and shared with a lot of people. My office became a place where you could have prayer—a place where I could share and encourage. God put me in a perfect place for a perfect job.”

Bill initially planned to retire on October 1 but was able to retire early, a blessing in disguise. He will remain in the local area near his daughter and care for his parents but will always be thankful for his time at Andrews. He says, “Andrews University gave me the chance to be the person God intended me to be.”

LaBianca spends 4.5 months in Jerusalem

Serves at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research

ØYSTEIN LABIANCA, PROFESSOR OF AN-thropology and associate director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, recently spent four and a half months in Jerusalem for an annual professor fellowship at the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research.

During his stay, Øystein completed work on two books. “Levantine Entanglement: Local Dynamics of Globalization in a Contested Region” is the lead publication resulting from a research collaboration at the Center for Advanced Study in Norway. It describes the geographical region known as the Levant as a way to study the culture, history and religions of the Eastern Mediterranean. The second book, “The

Levantine Nexus: The View from Hisban,” summarizes four decades of research developing methods and theories for studying the long-term in the Southern Levant.

While at the Albright Institute, Øystein also co-presented a workshop with Terje Stordalen, professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament studies at the University of Oslo, Norway, and OBEL Social Science visiting professor, University of Aalborg, Denmark.

In addition to the academic activities, the Albright Institute organized cultural activities for its visiting fellows, including a hike up the Mount of Olives and a 10-day tour of Egypt. Øystein and his wife, Asta, enjoyed exploring the local area on their own, too, taking a tour of the Temple

Mount area and visiting Bethlehem, Hebron and the south of Israel.

The LaBiancas also traveled to Florence, Italy, where Øystein was one of the keynote speakers for the opening session of the International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan. The opening session took place at the Hall of the Five Hundred in the City Hall of Florence, and Øystein shared the stage with Prince Hassan of Jordan, the mayor of Florence, the Italian ambassador to Jordan, and the director of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan.

Øystein says, “Our stay at the Albright was an unforgettable experience. The fellowship with staff and various senior and junior scholars also in-residence at the Institute was enriching both on a professional level and personally.”

[Read the complete story and view photos on the Andrews Agenda.](#)