

DREAM ENDING

By Arlyn Drew

It was the result of a nightmare my dad had during my freshman year of college. I arrived on the lush green campus of Andrews University during the summer of 1984 with mixed feelings. The previous year I had been at Yale University. I had been accepted into Yale from Garden State Academy and became somewhat of a celebrity among the East Coast Korean Adventists. I enjoyed being living proof of how academically sound our secondary school system was.

My dad was proud of my achievements; my mother was worried about my soul. We made a solemn contract that if we felt my Adventist value system was in jeopardy, either I would initiate a transfer or they would cut my tuition support. About halfway through the year I started to feel that being Adventist didn't seem so important. Surrounded by morally ethical intellectuals who didn't need the Bible or a particular God to be kind or good, religion seemed more like a favorite hobby and less like a calling. My parents didn't notice any changes in my behavior. But then my dad felt God sent him a message.

He dreamed he had taken me by the hand into an elevator. The elevator was crowded with many brilliant and powerful people who all looked very distinguished. However, as it ascended the faces of the company started to change into grotesque and devilish expressions, alarming him. When we reached our destination, he was anxious to grip my hand and get out of there. We exited the elevator with relief onto a rolling green landscape dotted by plain school buildings.

So, the decision was made as a family. I applied for a sabbatical year and enrolled at Andrews University as a sophomore.

Even though it felt like a letdown to walk around on a quiet pastoral campus, I was determined to maximize what I could get from this quaint Midwestern school. Since it contained the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and faith issues were at the heart of my transfer, I chose to take the pre-seminary degree along with pre-med prerequisites. It turned out to be a busy and wonderful three years.

Here, I made close friends with professors on both ends of the campus. From the religion department, Douglas Waterhouse, Samuele Bacchiocchi and Joe Greig had a huge impact on my educational experience. Waterhouse wove fantastic webs of mythical creatures that made the Old Testament come alive. Bacchiocchi offered me a free signed book of his text on women's ordination and was incredibly organized and energizing on old church fathers. Greig, whose class I slipped into incognito and immediately derailed by arguing, mightily knocked down my false foundations of faith and made room for more rational and sound ones. I later developed a long-lasting mentor friendship with Greig. From the science complex, Hare was absolutely infectious in his excitement for his topic; patient Asa Thoresen in histology waved his red coral to demonstrate neural dendrites—regardless of how many times we pretended to need it; and gracious Dwain Ford stayed as long as the last student had any questions in pre-test preparation study halls—regardless of the time.

These Christian scholars and mentors turned college from a gauntlet of education into a transformational journey of



Christian growth with intellectual integrity. God came even closer to me through all the worship and service opportunities on campus. Even though I never completed a college degree—due to taking advanced classes for interest instead of requirements once med school called—Andrews had become my “home” in more ways than one. It was at Andrews where I met my husband.

It felt like a homecoming to return to Andrews after medical residency to pursue my MDiv at the Seminary in 1994. We found the surrounding community was a good place for our medical practices so we have settled in. Now, we have six wonderful children who are studying their way through the Andrews University system. I feel content that they aren't missing out on the best.

Arlyn S. Drew, (MDiv '97) resides in Niles, Mich., with **Kevin Drew** (att.) and their rollicking horde of kids and is starting on her PhD in the Seminary this fall.

We'd love to hear your reflections on the time you spent at Andrews University. If you're interested in contributing, please e-mail focus@andrews.edu.