

A place to belong

by Kristina Penney

People in his community were living as if there was no tomorrow, but God had other plans for Cliffmond Shameerudeen. The journey that God planned for him included a scholarship that allowed him to attend Andrews University, where he found both a chance to build on his faith and the fellowship of ministry to keep him from drifting away.

Cliffmond was raised in an Adventist family in Guyana, among a community with very different values than his family. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of eight, but it was hard to stay true to his beliefs.

“Despite my efforts to become like the rest of my community, God seemed to always make sure I was in the right place,” he said.

“My parents never had the opportunity to receive formal education beyond third grade,” said Cliffmond. “Attending school and going to church regularly was not an option in my family.”

Cliffmond did graduate from public high school, but found that he had neither the grades to attend college, nor any good opportunities for employment. He asked God for help in trying to figure out what he should do with his life.

He tried taking business classes at a private school, then applied to a local university,



Amy & Cliffmond Shameerudeen

but was denied. Finally, a friend sent him an application for an Adventist college in Trinidad. He applied and was accepted on provisional status. It turned out that Andrews University was the institution actually granting the degrees.

Cliffmond wanted to complete the last two years of his degree at Andrews, so in 2002 he moved to Andrews and graduated with a BS in computer science two years later.

“When I thought I was done at Andrews University, God was not done with me,” said

Cliffmond. “I got married to Amy in 2007 and began planning our future. God was also planning my future. I obeyed His calling to ministry and enrolled in the Master of Divinity program in the Seminary.”

He applied for a scholarship through the Seminary and was surprised to receive a letter stating he had received two scholarships: The Richard L. Hammill Endowed Scholarship and The Myrtle Logan Seminary Student Scholarship.

“Getting the scholarship reminded me of how God takes care of His children. I am very thankful for the opportunity to study at this great institution that puts students first on its agenda,” says Cliffmond.

Since beginning his studies at the seminary, he has learned tools that challenge him to do truly excellent work. The opportunities to participate in different ministries while at Andrews have also helped strengthen his faith. He says, “The chance to return to study at the Seminary has been a once-in-a-lifetime dream.”

Endowed scholarships play a large part in making dreams like Cliffmond’s come true.

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New Endowments & Named Scholarship Funds 2008–2009

The John & Eleanor Bicknell Endowed Scholarship

This endowment was established by Eleanor Bicknell in honor of her husband, is to be awarded annually to worthy and deserving student(s), undergraduate or graduate, enrolled at Andrews University who is/are pursuing, a degree in biology.

Richard & JoAnn Davidson Endowed Scholarship

Established by the Davidsons to benefit worthy and deserving student(s) enrolled at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University who is/are pursuing a degree in Theological Studies or Old Testament, preferably alternating between the two every other year.

Norman J. Roy Endowed Scholarship

This endowment was established by Margaret Roy to benefit some

worthy and deserving student(s) enrolled as music major(s) with an emphasis in the area of voice or choral.

C. Roy Smith & Charlene Vitrano Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Was established by Andrews Academy alumni (1960–1992) and friends and family of the Smith and Vitrano families to benefit worthy and deserving student(s) enrolled in Andrews Academy.

The Carol Lafferty Rasmussen Endowed Scholarship

This endowment, established in her honor by her husband, Joseph Rasmussen, will be awarded annually to some worthy and deserving student(s) enrolled at Andrews University who is/are pursuing, undergraduate or graduate degrees in Education.