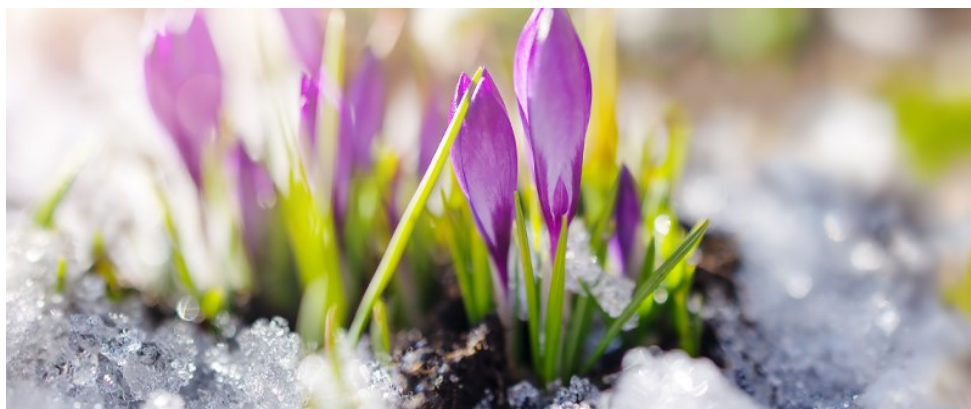




In this Extended Issue:

- Recent Events
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 - Featured Article



The Sacred Work of Listening

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.” — James 1:19 (NKJV)

In chaplaincy, regardless of the setting or discipline, there are essential qualities that enable us to provide effective spiritual and moral support to individuals and their families. Among them are the ministry of presence, cultural and religious sensitivity, integrity, and confidentiality. Equally important is active listening.

In his epistle, James addressed believers navigating persecution, displacement, and moral decline. His counsel remains timely. Before we speak, interpret, or respond, we are first called to listen, most importantly, to the Word of God, and then to others.

For chaplains, listening is sacred work. Active listening is an act of compassion that honors the dignity, experiences, and beliefs of those we serve. Healing often begins when a story is received without judgment or interruption. Ellen White affirms this principle in *The Ministry of Healing* (pp. 157–159), noting that Christ’s ministry was characterized by sympathy, compassionate engagement, and personal concern for others, revealing His love in practical ways.

God designed the ear with remarkable care. The six smallest bones in the human body are found within it. Fully developed at birth, the ear also governs balance and continues working even while we sleep. Research confirms that hearing is often one of the last senses to fade at the end of life.

A chaplain once visited a woman in a coma following a severe accident. After recovering, she shared that she had heard Scripture, prayers, and her young daughter’s tearful plea: *“Please heal my mother.”* Though she could not respond, she was not alone. God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps (Psalm 121:3–4), was listening.

As we move forward this year, may we be *“swift to hear, slow to speak, [and] slow to wrath”* as admonished by the apostle James. In listening, we love. In loving, we serve.

Director Washington Johnson II

**Please send us any prayer requests as we dedicate a special time
on Mondays for our chaplains and their families**



Recent Events



Elder Nick Lozito (Middle), an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained by the Central California Conference on December 13, 2025

Elder James Murdock, an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained by the Northern California Conference on December 20, 2025



Elder Emerson Bolivar (second from the left), an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained by the Southeastern California Conference on January 10, 2026

Elder Herber Aviles (middle), an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained by the Northern California Conference on January 10, 2026



Elder Keith Wakefield (middle), an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained by the Southeastern California Conference on January 24, 2026



Recent Events Continued



Elder Daniel Kim, an endorsed healthcare and military chaplain, was ordained by the Washington Conference on February 7, 2026

Elder Paul Mugane (third from the left), an endorsed healthcare chaplain, was ordained by the Southeastern California Conference on February 21, 2026



Adventist Health Mission Summit in Roseville, CA, February 3-4, 2026



At the recent North American Division Campus Ministries Convention (Oct. 29-Nov. 3, 25), our campus chaplains celebrated the ones who have shaped the spiritual lives of students across the NAD. Chaplain Dilys Brooks - 20 years of faithful service, mentoring students, supporting fellow chaplains, and exemplifying what authentic, courageous leadership looks like—especially for women and women of color in ministry. Chaplain Dilys remains a living legacy and a source of inspiration for all in campus chaplaincy.

They also recognized service awardees for their commitment and dedication. Andrea Keele from Walla Walla University was honored for five years of faithful service, and Jason Decena from La Sierra University. Our campus chaplains' contributions reflect the heart of campus chaplaincy—creating spaces where students are seen, supported, and encouraged in their spiritual journeys.

As they celebrate each one in campus chaplaincy and the milestones, we are reminded that the work of campus ministry is both sacred and transformative. From nurturing students' faith to mentoring colleagues and shaping campus culture, our chaplains exemplify the grace, integrity, and perseverance that allow God's calling to flourish. We are grateful for their leadership, their service, and the countless lives they have touched along the way.



Announcements

Virtual Professional Development TRAINING

March 25 at 1 pm (Eastern Time)

“Chaplains and the First Amendment”



Presenter: Director Orlan Johnson, Esq
**NAD Public Affairs and
Religious Liberty Department**

*The Webinar link will be sent to you on the 24th.

For NAD Faith and Politics Channel click on the link

religiousliberty.info/faith-and-politics

During March 2 – 5, NAD ACM had productive advisory sessions with GC ACM along with Adventist chaplaincy leaders from other Divisions.

We are blessed to embrace the mission of GC ACM

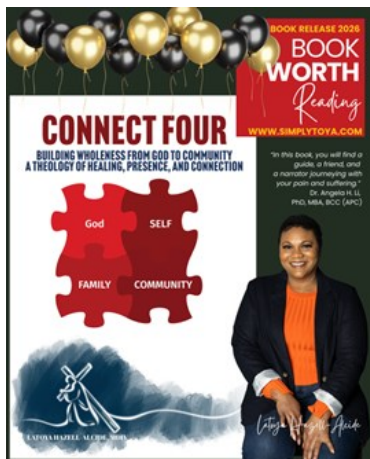
Competency Commitment Compassion

The North American Division supports the following initiative from the General Conference. For more information, click on the link below:

[OneVoice 2027](#)



Enjoy a new publication from one of our gifted chaplains:



We Bid Farewell...

... to our beloved Endorsement Specialist, Mrs. Lorena Martinez. We trust that God will bless her and her husband, Edwin's retirement. Mrs. Martinez's last day is April 30, 2026.



For Her Steady Light

Before the sun would greet the day,
Her faithful footsteps led the way.
In quiet halls and morning's start,
She gave her time, she gave her heart.

She led with kindness, soft but clear,
With gentle strength that drew us near.
Her steadfast caring shines a light,
Helped every chaplain with steady stride.

Responsible in all she does,
Dependable and tried and true.
When choices weighed and stress crept near,
Her firm resolve would anchor in.

Her standards high, her conscience strong,
She showed us what is right, not wrong.
Yet in her firmness lived a grace—
A warmth that time cannot erase.

Though parting brings more than an inevitable sigh,
Her influence will never die.
She leaves behind more than a role—
She leaves her imprint on each soul.

We wish for you a brand-new start,
A joyful, bright, and hopeful part.
A great new beginning, richly earned,
With slower pace and open skies.

May God's rich blessings light your way,
May His peace guard your heart always,
With gratitude and love we say,
God bless you in each retired days.

By: Chaplain Angela Li



Important Dates for Professional Development Training

- 2026** Mar 25 Chaplaincy and the First Amendment (Virtual)
Dec 5 - 9 ACM Conference at PELC (Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council)
- 2027** Jun 21 - 24 North American Division-Ministerial Conference (Lexington, KY)
Dec 4 - 8 ACM Conference at PELC
- 2028** Jun 19 - 21 Professional Development Training - Seventh-day Adventist
Theological Seminary (Berrien Springs, MI)
Dec 2 - 6 ACM Conference at PELC
- 2029** Mar 19 - 21 Professional Development Training - North American Division
Headquarters (Columbia, MD)
Dec 1 - 5 ACM Conference at PELC
- 2030** Jun TBA World Congress - GC Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries (Indianapolis, IN)
Dec 7 - 11 ACM Conference at PELC

Spouse's Highlight

Covering Chaplaincy Spouses in Prayer

Chaplaincy spouses often carry a unique, “quiet weight” while supporting a ministry partner who regularly walks with people through crisis, grief, trauma, and spiritual distress. Even when the spouse isn't the one responding to late-night calls or sitting with families in hard moments, the realities of chaplaincy still shape home life. Prayer becomes an anchor, a way to release what we cannot control, to seek God's wisdom and protection, and to receive strength, peace, and endurance for the journey.

Pamela Rodriguez, spouse of Healthcare Chaplain Victor Rodriguez, has graciously offered to pray for fellow chaplaincy spouses, and she has provided her personal email (pamela.rodriguez09@gmail.com) for any spouse who would like to request prayer. Here is her prayer ministry story in her exact words:

“The Lord called me to the Prayer Ministry about 30 years ago while reading Randy Maxwell's book "If My People Pray." God asked me to start a women's prayer group in my church, to which I initially replied, "I can't do that." But He persisted, and I eventually agreed - what a blessing that was! From there, He began asking me to pray for different speakers at camp meetings, women's ministry events, and churches. Again, I was reluctant at first, but He was patient with me. Now, when He asks me to pray for someone, I say "Yes!" And when anyone asks for prayer, I do my best to pray right then and there. When the Lord brings someone to mind, I try to be cognizant of the fact that He's asking me to pray; I don't need to know the details, because He does. He caused a broken lawnmower to start because I prayed. He moved a truck that was stuck after I prayed. And it's not anything in my prayer, but in His power and His answer to my requests.”



If you are a chaplaincy spouse who would like prayer—whether for strength, peace, wisdom, your family, or anything the Lord has placed on your heart—please reach out to Pamela with your prayer request at: pamela.rodriguez09@gmail.com.

Associate Directors' Corner

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am grateful for God's continued blessings and guidance as we move forward in 2026. At ACM, we are witnessing God's power and leading in big and small ways. This year, I believe God proclaims it as the Year for Campus Chaplaincy! By God's grace and the dedication of our campus chaplains, we pray our efforts will show our young people that they are loved, treasured, and supported. We are grateful for each of you especially the ones who provide spiritual and emotional care for our next generations, wherever you are.

Over the weekend, I spent some time reflecting on a verse I often read and study around Easter.

John 12:32 recorded Jesus' declaration, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." Jesus spoke these words shortly before His crucifixion. He knew the cross was coming, yet He declared that when He was lifted up, He would draw all people to Himself. The cross—an instrument of shame and suffering—became the greatest demonstration of God's love for humanity. For Seventh-day Adventists, lifting up Jesus means placing Him at the center of everything we believe and practice. Our doctrines, health message, Sabbath keeping, and prophetic understanding, all find the true meaning only when Christ is the focus.

I would also like to share one more time my Prayer Plans with you and hope this can add to our prayer life.

[Monday - Praying for our family and ourself](#)

[Tuesday - Praying for people who are suffering and/or in hardship](#)

[Wednesday - Praying for our church families, friends, and relatives](#)

[Thursday - Praying for our workplace and people we support](#)

[Friday - Praying for our world, country, leaders, church leaders, and our soldiers](#)

[Sabbath - Praying and listening for God's still, small voice](#)

[Sunday - Praying for strength, peace, guidance, and whatever else in our hearts](#)

Although we may not expect the world to be better any time soon, I continue to pray for peace and compassion as we continue to serve under God's almighty power. Please join me in prayer:

Dear God, with this prayer, I humbly ask for your grace and blessings in our broken world. May you pour out your love, protection, wisdom, peace, and courage on each person. I pray for the children and adults who are suffering, mentally, physically, emotionally, or spiritually. May you surround them with people who value kindness and compassion. As we journey with others, I trust your love will cover us in every turn. Thank you for loving us. In Jesus' precious name I pray, amen.

May we keep moving forward with God's healing, strength, freedom, and joy.

Have a blessed Easter!

Chaplain Angela Li, Healthcare & Campus—Mid-America, southwestern, & West Regions

Cell: 310-617-2897 / angelali@nadadventist.org

Greetings Chaplains!

I feel so honored and blessed to be the new Associate Director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, supporting healthcare and campus chaplains on the eastern side of the North American Division.

As a healthcare and military chaplain, I find deep meaning in supporting others, and I have a special place in my heart for supporting you and the ministry of chaplaincy. I thank God for you — for your calling, your training, and your day-to-day ministry in the settings where you serve. Chaplaincy is a precious calling to minister in unique and specialized environments, and I'm grateful that you have answered that call, completed the education required, and pursued this ministry.

I remember my first year in chaplaincy! I felt excited and passionate about meeting new people every day. I was ready to listen and journey with them through the situations they were facing. I felt so blessed to do this work — and yet I would go home exhausted, with neck and shoulder tension that I could not explain.

I remember processing my feelings and asking myself, If I love this work so much, why am I feeling stress and tension? It took me some time to understand that chaplaincy is hard work. Chaplaincy requires an immense level of emotional and spiritual resilience. As chaplains, we come alongside others and, with empathy and compassion, help them bear their emotional load for a time. This is one of the ways we fulfill Jesus' command in Matthew 16:24 to "take up your cross and follow me." On top of the responsibilities of our own personal lives, we help bear the burdens of others.

This realization — the heaviness of chaplaincy — helped me seek out resources that strengthened me and helped me grow in resilience as I continued in ministry. I imagine that some of you may also be feeling the weight of your calling, along with struggles you may be carrying in your personal lives.

At this moment, I'm holding space for you. I'm praying that the God who called you and equipped you for this ministry would also hold you, even as you hold others.

I'm looking forward to meeting you and supporting you in your work. Please feel free to reach out with questions, concerns, prayer requests, or just say hello.

With gratitude and prayer,

Chaplain Denny Rengifo, Healthcare & Campus - Southern, Lake, Columbia and Atlantic Regions

Cell: 717-377-2690 / dennyrengifo@nadadventist.org

Sacred Presence in Lament: Chaplaincy at the Bedside of Grief

By Chaplain Latoya Hazell-Alcide, MDiv

At the heart of chaplaincy is the willingness to make room, permission for grief to speak and lament to be named. In hospital corridors heavy with sighs, where prayers often sounded more like groans than petitions, clinical spiritual care taught me to honor lament rather than rush it toward meaning. The courage to stay with grief long enough for it to be named.

One encounter remains vivid. A husband sat for hours beside his dying wife, his emotions cycling from disbelief to anger to silence. Any attempt to explain or console would have fractured the moment. What mattered most was bearing witness to his honest lament before God. Ecclesiastes 3:4 reminds us there is “a time to weep.” A poignant reminder remained; we move toward tears because God does.

Recent scholarship affirms what lived ministry reveals: patients and families need permission to lament without being spiritually redirected. Byrne-Martelli describes grief as a “still, small voice” that calls for attentive presence rather than explanation. Clinical literature shows that honoring silence and ambiguity supports emotional regulation, trust, and meaning-making in loss. Together, these insights affirm that lament is not a failure of faith but a pathway to healing, drawing us into the lament-shaped presence of the Triune God.

1 Heaven’s First Lament

Before there were hospital rooms, there was grief in Heaven. Scripture describes “a war in heaven” (Revelation 12:7-9). Ellen G. White writes that this rupture became “a perpetual testimony to the nature of sin and its terrible results.” Stephen N. Haskell adds that the plan of salvation “was no afterthought”.

Chaplaincy insight: *Divine leadership engages pain instead of avoiding it.*

2 God Walking Toward the Wounded

In Genesis 3:8, God walks through the garden after the fall, the first pastoral visit. God’s “Where are you?” still echoes in rooms heavy with fear or guilt.

Chaplaincy insight: *Presence begins with approach.*

3 God in the Boat of Bondage

God leads with nearness, pillar of cloud and fire (Exodus 13:21-22). Christ dwells among His people.

Chaplaincy insight: *In suffering, God stays.*

4 Immanuel: God With Us

“In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity,” White writes.

Chaplaincy insight: *“God with us” becomes “chaplain with them.”*

5 The Center Cross

At Calvary, Jesus takes the middle place (Luke 23:33).

Chaplaincy insight: *The space between faith and fear is sacred ground.*

6 The Risen Christ and the Final Bedside

Jesus enters locked rooms with wounds still visible (John 20). Revelation promises God will wipe every tear (Revelation 21:4).

Chaplaincy insight: *To wipe a tear requires proximity.*

God’s leadership dignifies lament, inviting chaplains to create space for grief, allow it to unfold without urgency, and remain long enough for trust and meaning to emerge. As Byrne-Martelli reminds us, healing begins not with answers but with deep listening. When we dwell in lament, we bear witness to a God who has not left the room, what Robert C. Stroud calls, “love in action.”

Reference Key

1. Byrne-Martelli, 2021
2. Khalili Khouzani et al., 2025
3. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 499
4. Haskell, *The Cross and Its Shadow*, p. 18
5. Haskell, *The Cross and Its Shadow*, p. 49
6. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 25
7. Byrne-Martelli, 2021
8. Stroud, 2017

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