

## A Young Man's Dream Comes True and a Prayer Is Answered

Have you ever had a dream that you prayed would come true someday? Ever since Andrew Marple was a young man in El Paso, Texas, he dreamed of becoming a school teacher someday. He took courses through the local college while working as a manager of a local restaurant.

Then one day, he and his family talked about moving out of El Paso because the city was getting increasingly violent. They wanted to find a safe place and have a fresh start away from the influence of drugs which were becoming more rampant.

In the meantime, Mayra, his wife, went to Wisconsin to visit her uncle, Elijah, who had grown up a Catholic and then became a Seventh-day Adventist. Andrew and Mayra were both raised Catholic, but when her uncle read Mayra the Ten Commandments, she couldn't believe what she had just heard! She said, "What? Let me see that. It can't be right!" She realized the Ten Commandments were written differently in her Catholic Bible. No more was she going to follow her old Bible, and she shared all of this with Andrew. They both saw this was the truth and resolved to follow what God had written.

One day Andrew shared with his high school friends, Mark and Missy, who live in Augusta, Maine, how his family wanted to move out of the city. The couple offered their downstairs apartment to Andrew's family until they could find their own place. That was a definite answer to prayer. It didn't take any

convincing, and they were ready to move.

Andrew took a job at Central Maine Power in Augusta and was doing well there. However, it wasn't the job he had always dreamed of. Mayra wanted to find a local Seventh-day Adventist Church. She drove to the church in Augusta for two consecutive Saturdays, but found the church was closed with a note on the door stating that church would resume after camp meeting. Her uncle explained camp meeting to her and suggested she try again. One day she went by the church and met a lady sweeping the porch who was very welcoming. Now for the rest of this beautiful story.

Andrew, Mayra, and the two children from Mayra's previous marriage, Evolet and Eli, all took Bible studies and were baptized together. They had always wanted a church wedding, and the Augusta church gave them a beautiful one with a lovely reception that was live-streamed to their families in Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin. They have found a perfect home in Waterville, near Riverview Memorial School, where Evolet and Eli are attending.

They recently learned that the current principal, Pierre Ortiz, was moving out of state. Now it was time to pray. The Augusta and Norridgewock churches had both been praying for someone to replace Ortiz. Andrew applied for the job, and then he prayed. His dream has now come true. Never give up on your dream! God is always willing



Andrew, Mayra, and their children are happy to be in Maine.



Andrew Marple starts the new school year as the teacher and principal of the Riverview Memorial School.

to help us because He loves us so much.

—Sue Wallen and Martin Miller, communication team, Augusta church