

## The Faithful Mission of Andrews University

John Wesley Taylor V, president

EARLIER THIS SUMMER, I HAD THE distinct privilege to return to my alma mater to take on the great and humbling invitation to serve as your new president.

Since I've returned, I have been blessed to find that there are numerous reminders each day that at Andrews University our mission is, and continues to be, embedded in our DNA.

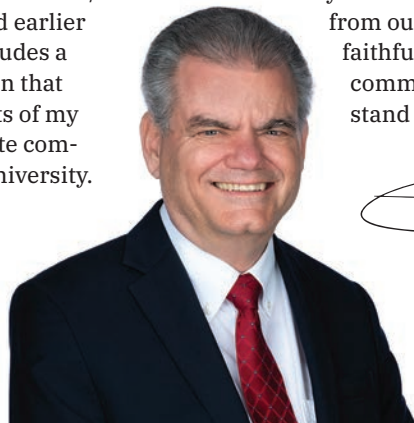
The centrality of our mission has been here from the start at Battle Creek College, the forerunner of Andrews University. As you know, our school opened its doors in August 1874 as the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first higher education institution, an institution with an explicit goal to best prepare students to carry forward the Gospel commission.

And if you know the story of Andrews—the University—you also know that in 1874 our University's namesake, J.N. Andrews, along with his family answered the call to serve as the first sponsored missionaries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This nearly 150-year commitment to mission at Andrews University means that tens of thousands of inspired students have graduated from Andrews University and have gone back to hometowns—or traveled throughout the world—to actively engage in God's mission.

With a new school year beginning, I am reminded that, as has been the case with each new school year, Andrews University and its faculty, staff and students move forward together, inspired by this University's legacy of witness and service. We begin this new school year by recommitting ourselves to fulfill God's mission on our campus and around the world.

My new website (andrews.edu/president) was launched earlier this summer, and it includes a "From the Heart" section that sets out different aspects of my vision for, and passionate commitment to, Andrews University.



World Changers Made Here.

I would like to close by sharing some thoughts from my "Commitment to Mission" message.

First, I believe that Andrews University's commitment to a global mission begins by fulfilling our institutional mission, which reflects on and exemplifies the Gospel commission. Our mission here at Andrews University states:

*Andrews University, a distinctive Seventh-day Adventist Christian institution, transforms its students by educating them to Seek Knowledge and Affirm Faith in order to Change the World.*

Daily we commit ourselves to fulfill each element of that mission with creativity and excellence.

This means we are consistently and **distinctively Seventh-day Adventist**, Christ-centered and Bible-based, committed to the mission of the Church. We are also committed to **transformation through education**, believing that Andrews University education transforms our understanding, our skills, our priorities—and our entire life.

At Andrews University, we **Seek Knowledge** by viewing God as the ultimate Source of knowledge and wisdom. We must pursue knowledge that is linked to real life, to our relationships and our communities. We **Affirm Faith** by connecting our entire campus as a network of relationships and tools to help effectively build a vibrant community of vivid faith.

Finally, I believe we can and will **Change the World** and make a difference for God by demonstrating and sharing His love to the world in tangible ways.

In a world filled with uncertainty and rapid change, I believe that Andrews University's commitment to our mission must remain unwavering and strong. It is in times of challenge that our faith can shine brightest, as our Andrews University community draws strength from our beliefs and the faithfulness of God, through a community of believers who stand united in mission.

# FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

### Editor

Gillian Panigot (BA '06, MA '08)  
focus@andrews.edu | 269-471-3348

### Associate Editor

Patricia Spangler (BS '04)

### Contributing Editors

Raelene Brower (att.)  
Kieran Taylor (BS '20, MS '22)

### Designer

Justin Jeffery (BMus '04)

### Photographers

Iago Alonso (current student)  
Jeff Boyd (MBA '04, current staff)  
Youngbo Chun (current student)  
Alistair Clarke (BS '19)  
Jessica Condon (BFA '19)  
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FOCUS (ISSN 1077-9345) is published quarterly, free of charge, for alumni and friends of Andrews University, an institution owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The magazine's address is FOCUS, Office of University Communication, Andrews University, 8903 US Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright © 2023 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Printed by Holland Litho Printing Service, Zeeland MI. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs MI, and at additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to FOCUS Magazine, Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, 8714 E Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email alumni@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3591.



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