

Andrews University

Digital Commons @ Andrews University

The Student Movement v. 108 (2023-2024)

Student Movement

9-22-2023

The Student Movement Volume 108 Issue 2: World Changers Assemble!

Colin Cha

Grace No

Savannah Tyler

Lexie Dunham

Aiko J. Ayala Rios

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/sm-108>



Part of the Education Commons

Authors

Colin Cha, Grace No, Savannah Tyler, Lexie Dunham, Aiko J. Ayala Rios, Madison Vath, Jonathan Clough, Andrew Francis, Reagan Westerman, Daena Holbrook, Alyssa Caruthers, Wambui Karanja, Nicole Compton-Gray, and Scott Moncrieff

World Changers Assemble!



Photo by Darren Heslop

Humans

HUMANS

Meet Pastor Taurus Montgomery

Colin Cha 09.22.23



Photo by Blaise Datoy

Pastor Taurus Montgomery gave a series of sermons during Andrews University's Week of Prayer (September 11-16). In this interview, I asked him about his goals for the week, his experiences with God, and his message to the students of Andrews.

What is your history with Andrews University, if any?

I went to seminary at Andrews several years ago, from 2008 to 2010.

What is the main theme/takeaway of this year's Week of Prayer?

I want students to leave with a clearer sense of God's purpose in their lives, and the steps they can take in order to live out that purpose. I believe that when you're clear on what God's purpose is for your life, it gives you a sense of calling, fulfillment, and satisfaction that you can't get without knowing why you've been put on this earth.

What has your spiritual journey been like?

Well, I didn't grow up in a Christian household; I came to Christ when I was nineteen years old. It all happened as a result of my house burning down, leaving my family homeless. An Adventist family let me and my family come live with them, and we stayed with them for about two to three years. During that time frame I was introduced to Christ, and I made the decision for myself when I was nineteen years old to follow Christ. My spiritual journey has been amazing; seeing God in my own life, throughout my missions and serving others, has grown my faith. In the midst of all that, He showed me His purpose for my life, which I believe is helping young people find their purpose.

What compelled you to become a pastor?

It was a sense of calling, something I just felt like God was calling me to do. When I would go to church and sit in the pews, there would be moments where I would just kind of be lost in that moment where the preacher himself is no longer just a preacher, but I would see myself preaching, and that would be a recurring theme. Also, there would be people just randomly asking me if I was a minister or a pastor, and these were complete strangers. So God was confirming through those things that He was calling me to pastoral ministry.

Lastly, what Change Day activity did you participate in?

So we had about twenty to twenty-five students come out to my church, Harbor of Hope, and they helped with grounds work, the community garden, lawn care, organizing, and cleaning in the church. They all helped to lift a burden in the work we needed in the church.

There's been some confusion about what happened on Tuesday, and I believe some people were misinformed about what went down. Could you elaborate on what you said in your call to prayer, and your mention of specific struggles like insecurities and sexual bondage?

Oh man, Tuesday was a God moment. Sometimes God moments are beyond human explanation, but I'll give my humble attempt at explaining what happened on Tuesday. It was a call for people to surrender themselves; I got the impression from God that there were some young people who knew what they should be doing, but were not living that out. So it was an altar call for those individuals to do what they know God is calling them to do. And for those that knew they needed God's help in overcoming personal struggles, such as their insecurities or sexual struggles, to take that moment to come to the altar to ask God for spiritual power. So that's my humble estimation of what happened on Tuesday.

What's the most important thing you think students should hear right now?

As I mentioned earlier, I want students to walk away with a clearer sense of God's purpose for their lives, and how to discover this unique purpose. Even more so, that God is real, and that He meets us where we are to get us where He wants us to be in living out His purpose for our lives.

HUMANS

Uniting AULA with Sofia Oudri

Grace No [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Sofia Oudri

As we begin to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Andrews University, one club on campus has plenty of school wide events planned to educate and immerse us into the many facets of Hispanic culture that the club represents. This year's president, Sofia, tells us more about her ambitions for AULA and how her personal identity ties into the events and themes of the club.

Please introduce yourself to us!

My name is Sofia Oudri, and I'm a junior. I'm studying Exercise Science PBT and I am the president of the AULA university Association.

How did you become president of AULA?

AULA is in some ways a newer social cultural club, as AULA kind of took on "Adelante" and became a part of it, because before that we had more separation between the two clubs. So that being said, even though it seems like the Latino presence in clubs has been around for a while, we are building up and becoming more structured. So for me, running for president was not really campaigning in the traditional sense. It was more so showing an interest to the previous officers and the sponsor of the year prior and it's appointed that way. I would like to have more interactions with club members and maybe start having elected positions and whatnot in the future. But for me, it was just appointed by last year's president and the sponsor.

What made you interested in becoming the president this year?

Last year, I had a lot of fun in the club as the graphic designer. With my position, I would have to reach out to a lot of people and create graphics for social media while working with the PR person. Because of that, I realized how much I liked leadership roles and being someone who kind of sees what areas are people's strong suits. I enjoy seeing that this person has more of a strength in this particular area, so saying maybe we should assign this position to them or whatever and that's how my mind works. I was very involved in our club last year because of all the work that I had to do for it, and Brandon Alvarez (senior, business and chemistry) and I worked together a lot promoting events, setting up for events, and just networking with people in general. It wasn't something that felt like a job because I enjoyed it so much. And whenever there was any kind of bump in the road for our events last year, I would make a mental note of it and think, okay, next year, we have to prepare for it by this time or have these resources ready. So even since last year I was interested in being more involved. There were also really great people that I got to work with, and I started connecting with other people that were going to be in leadership positions this year. I thought that having those connections would be really awesome to have for future collaborative events. Obviously I didn't think I was the perfect person for the job but I knew that if I was able to get the position, I definitely had a vision for how I would do things. I want to make sure things aren't super hectic for everybody and make it like a really enjoyable organization to be a part of.

Do you have any goals for yourself and for the club overall during this year?

Absolutely I do. Obviously I want to be focused on this year and events for this year, but my main goal is to set things up so that next year, whoever the team that we hand things off to can have an easier time running things. I'd also love to create some kind of outreach organization for the Latino community here as a whole. I mean, we make up maybe about a fifth of university students and there's also a lot of need in the communities locally, which is something that we helped out with last year though Change Day. Overall, I want to make sure people can all appreciate Hispanic culture and we can start that by having a great Hispanic Heritage month with all our different events.

Is there anything you're looking to change from last year?

Besides what I already mentioned, I would say I want to broaden our structure, because we have our team of officers but to have a more of an organized structure that we can keep from year to year. Obviously I don't want to completely change it from the way it is now, but just helping in any way that we can to make it a more stable structured organization than when we first started. In the beginning, we didn't really know how many people would sign up honestly, but now that it's a pretty big club on campus, it means we have a lot more to manage. For events, I'd like to have a lot of them throughout the year. Hispanic Heritage Month is where we have our big debut and make our presence known, but throughout the year we want to have pop up events where students can learn Hispanic culture in a hands-on way. It might be things like learning the music, learning art, food, and dancing. Speakers are great, but at the end of the day, sometimes people don't learn as much from a lecture than from a more hands-on activity. We want people to be able to experience Hispanic culture, not just hear about it.

What are some of the events you have planned for this month?

We have the back to school social on Friday on September 22 where we all come together, chill in front of Buller and paint some tote bags, relax, and eat some fruit. We also have different co-curriculars planned for the entire month including one where we will collaborate with BSCF. Each of the co-curriculars is going to be under our theme for the year, 'Estamos Unidos,' which is a way of bringing together the many countries that we represent and what we have in common instead of focusing on one at a time. We also have a collaboration with Impact, and I'm really excited for that. And of course we have Noche Latina, and that's basically a showcase of Latin performance and food, but the details of that is going to be a surprise for everyone. There's also a partnered event with Genesis, the Latino

church service that we have on campus, and that's most of the events that I can remember so far. Make sure that you're all checking our instagram page for more updates and information on any pop up events! (ig: [aulassociation](#))

What does 'Hispanic heritage' mean to you personally, and has that definition changed for you over the years?

That question is one that has kind of stayed on my mind, especially as we were all thinking of the theme for the year, because what does the word heritage really mean? I mean, you could be born somewhere and identify with a certain group or your parents could be from a specific culture but you live somewhere else outside of that. You could also know the language or not be able to speak it. So for me, you could be in any of those situations but still be under the umbrella term of Hispanic. Our theme of *Estamos Unidos* was chosen because some people feel like they're half and half. A lot of people feel connected to their Hispanic roots, but there's also so many that feel like they are in an in-between space. So for me, Hispanic heritage expands the umbrella of what it means to be Hispanic to include people like that and encourages people to not lose touch with their roots. Even if you've felt that you don't really belong, I want everyone to feel like they do with our club and also with Hispanic culture in general. I encourage myself and others to not let the knowledge of our culture die out and to be really proud of it. Sometimes people will ask me about the history or the culture of where I'm from, and I have to admit that I don't know all of it, and that's okay. Being second generation and the child of my parents who grew up in South America, I wasn't exposed to as much culture as them, but that doesn't take away from the importance of my experiences either. So I've learned to appreciate my own heritage and be proud of my own unique heritage.

HUMANS

World Changers Take On Changing the World

Savannah Tyler 09.22.23



Photo by Ragét Ricketts

Something you often hear on the campus of Andrews University is the term “world changer,” which is a name and call bestowed upon any individual who is associated with the institution. Depending on the student, they may choose to remember this duty while they are pursuing their academics, and some, while they know the phrase, may not think about it twice. No matter which side of the coin students fall on, each is given the opportunity to embrace the “world changer” mindset and participate in the annual university-wide Change Day. This event is a day in which individuals can sign up for a service project in and around Berrien Springs and follow the call of Matthew 22:37-39 to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” In the interest of learning what it means to be on the ground serving, “world changers” were asked to talk about their personal involvement in changing the world on Change Day.

“For Change Day, I helped out with Christmas Behind Bars, which is a huge organization that creates gift bags to hand out to those in prison. This acts as a form of ministry by giving people in jail something to look forward to and has even been shown to lower suicide rates in prison. I really enjoyed helping out with this project because it showed how something so small can make a huge impact on someone’s life. Also, it was an opportunity to meet other students and faculty from around campus by creating a shared environment of service. This experience was also incredible because we kept making bags until we ran out of supplies and ended up making over 9,000 bags in just a few short hours.”

Kenzie Fossmeyer (sophomore, nutrition and dietetics)

“For Change Day, I worked with the St. Joseph SDA Church to paint fire hydrants in neighborhoods of St. Joseph. With our small group of four, we worked on a designated section of a neighborhood. First, we had to clean the fire hydrants by scraping off the grime and old paint chips. After it was buffed, we started painting. Our group rotated who was the painter since we only had one paintbrush. This experience was unexpectedly a lot of fun since I was able to work with a team of new people and do something I’ve never done before. I really enjoyed getting to know my group and bonding over this new experience.”

Trista Braithwaite (junior, exercise science)

“I led the group for ‘Our House of the Way,’ and what we did was we helped organize a food drive by going door to door and leaving information at people’s houses. I honestly wasn’t sure what to expect going into the project but Stella, the organizer from Our House of the Way, was super sweet and shared the story with us about how she got into this work. After hearing more about Our House and their various other projects, I would really like to get more involved with them and possibly help out with their tutoring services or their Saturday community centers.”

Maia Hamstra (senior, speech-language pathology)

“I helped out with the Christmas Behind Bars Change Day group and it was pretty cool because I finished the day early and not only was I able to help people out but I got ramen too.”

Ember Clark (sophomore, English education)

“I helped with the “Paint ‘em red” project in St Joseph, where we painted old fire hydrants in need of care. I really enjoyed helping the community and it was a fun experience with some of my friends.” *Rod Olofernes (sophomore, medical laboratory sciences)*

“I helped out at the career fair for high school students, repping the Physics department! It did seem like there was a general lack of enthusiasm and engagement from the high schoolers across all booths, but we were able to captivate some with our Van de Graaff generator, which they used to zap their friends!” *T Bruggemann (senior, computer science and math studies)*

“This year for Change Day I participated in Christmas Behind Bars. This is a local ministry that provides goody bags, Christian books, and cards to those who are incarcerated. These packages provide them with hope and the comfort that someone is thinking of and praying for them. I enjoyed participating in this project and working together with others on campus to help make a difference.” *Symone Caruthers (junior, biology)*

“I worked at Your Story Hour. Our group was clearing out decades worth of accumulated boxes and other waste materials. The whole experience was ultimately uneventful aside from the chipmunk nest we found. One of our group ended up taking a baby chipmunk to the vet by virtue of an injured foot. Ultimately

our hosts were very hospitable and our group performed to expectation at the very least.” *Johann Cheng (sophomore, digital communications)*

“For Change Day I helped the community in Saint Joe by painting faded fire hydrants. It was tough buffing out the old paint but I still enjoyed being able to go out and help the community together with friends!” *Charisse Lapuebla (junior, speech-language pathology)*

“I helped out with the Michiana Fil-Am SDA Church cleanup. Our group split into teams to do yard work around the outside of the church, clean windows, and clean up some of the classrooms and closets inside. Although it didn’t really feel like I was doing a lot of work myself, I know that to the church members, it makes a big difference. As the saying goes, many hands make light work, so these jobs that might’ve taken one person a whole week only took us a couple of hours to do.” *Sara Hamstra (junior, medical laboratory sciences)*

Clearly, Change Day was a way for Andrews students and faculty to enjoy having a positive impact on our community

Arts & Entertainment

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Bewitched: An Album for the Fall Season

Lexie Dunham [09.22.23](#)

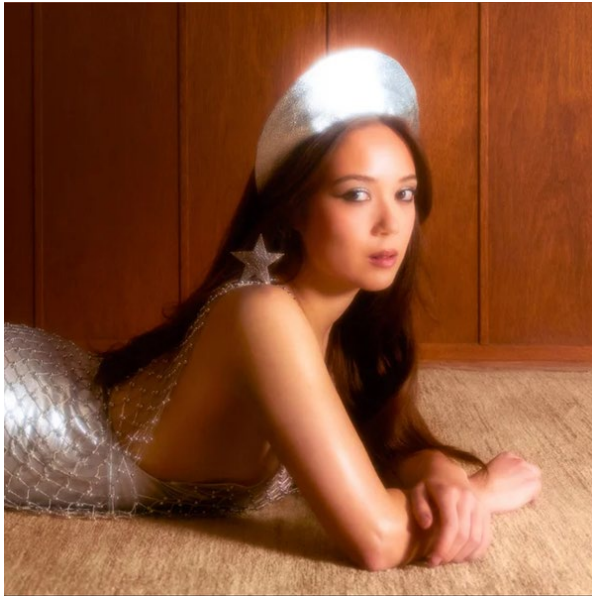


Photo by Gemma Warren

Just as I began to slip into a musical rut, September 8 came along. On this day, we were given the extraordinary album that is Laufey's "Bewitched." I have been a casual fan of Laufey's for as many years as she has been doing music, but this new album of hers intrigued me. First, the title grabbed my attention. Then, as I listened, I began to reflect on the words. Now, I consider myself a huge fan of Laufey and her dazzling songwriting abilities. If you ever thought of sitting in a jazz club on a Saturday night, as I have done many times, this album is for you. Mixed with stellar instrumentals and Laufey's velvety voice, this album is an ode to love.

If you know anything about Laufey (pronounced lāy-vāy), you know that she often writes love songs, especially about the hurt and/or beauty that falling in love can bring. “Bewitched” came just in time for fall. The fall vibes it gives off are immaculate. I don’t think I have ever listened to an album in which I instantly loved every song until this one. Usually, it takes a few listens to get the words to sink in. But I suppose I am such a hopeless romantic, and this album resonated with me so well that I quickly loved it.

There are fourteen masterfully written songs in this album. My two favorites have to be “[Second Best](#)” and “[Letter to My 13 Year Old Self](#)”. “Second Best” is a song that, like its title, is all about being someone’s second best. This song portrays the feeling you get when you care too much about someone, and they seem not to care or love you as much as you care or love them. With its melancholic melodies and Laufey’s smooth vocals, this song was one of my instant favorites. My favorite line is, “I love you too much, oh, this hurts to confess // Oh, you were my everything // I was your second best.” I love this line because it also applies to friendships. Too often, we put our everything into something only for the other person not to give their all. It can hurt to do that to ourselves, especially if you do that for years. I think Laufey has perfectly portrayed this feeling of one-sided relationships.

As I mentioned, my other favorite song is “Letter to my 13 Year Old Self”. I have to admit, this song made me cry the first time I listened to it. And 13 years old for me was only seven years ago! Yet, just like Laufey, I have so many things I wish I could tell my 13-year-old self. This is a beautiful song of reflection to see how far you have come, especially if you had that awful, awkward time of coming into your teenage years. I feel this song is especially for all the young women now who had a hard time accepting themselves and their beauty either when they were young or even in the present. Laufey has taken all her insecurities and encouraged her younger self by taking what she thought a lot about in the past and promising herself that things got better. Throughout the song, she names things her younger self thought she would never do, including being on stage, loving someone, and accepting her foreign-sounding name and curly hair. My favorite line is, “I wish I could go back and give her a squeeze // Myself at 13 // And just let her know, know that she’s beautiful.” If that line alone doesn’t make you cry, you must listen to the song again!

This album has not only been approved by me, but it has the stamp of approval by the world:

“Bewitched” earned the title of the biggest debut for a jazz album in Spotify history. It’s safe to say that although the 1940s-1950s jazz era has ended, Laufey is successfully helping bring jazz back into the mainstream world, and I couldn’t be happier! This album deserves a listen from anyone, even if you are on the fence about jazz music. If you happen to discover this album because of this article, [give it a listen](#). You will not regret listening to the fantastic music that graces your ears.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Music Notes for Change Day

Aiko J. Ayala Rios [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Lena Grimalkin from Unsplash

Another successful Change Day has been registered in the history book of Andrews University, with lots of projects and many people involved in activities to change the community around the campus. It was a cold day, but the day got warmer as every person helped to make a difference!

Many projects were executed to help people in the short and long term. Amid this, very few people noticed, but music students also got involved in Change Day with a project! Although the participants were mostly string players under the Studio

Class of Prof. Carla Trynchuk, all of them together were able to bring color and warmth to the Pine Ridge nursing home.

The participants went to Stevensville, where the nursing home is located, with a program prepared especially for the older people who were there. According to some students, around fifteen residents showed up for the recital. The students performed pieces by Massenet, Bach, Franck, Wienanski, and Pejacicvic. Some students played alone, while others were accompanied by piano students and Dr. Kenneth Logan. Additionally, a string quartet performed two pieces by Raff-Pochon and Bizet. For the finale, a concerto was performed, in which part of the public gasped and were amazed to see the talent of the performers. Seeing such a high-quality performance was a fantastic experience for them, bringing brightness to their day.

I would like to highlight a particular occurrence with the piano students who attended the project. Tyler Ninalga (senior, music performance) shared that one of the older people got closer to the piano students and showed them a piece on their phone. It was none other than "Claire de Lune" by Claude Debussy. The elderly lady shared with them that, back when she was young, her mother was making her learn piano, particularly that piece, and that she never did it. The lady then asked if any of the piano students could play it. Tyler offered to play, and although he had not played the piece in a long time, he could read the piece while playing, making this moment one that this lady would never forget.

This is an example of how our talents can change the world if we use them correctly and serve others, as Jesus and other Bible and history characters have. A great shoutout to the leader of the project, Professor Carla Trynchuk, and all of the students who participated in this project: Emi Rus (freshman, music performance, violin), Colin Cha (junior, music performance, cello), Glorie Boljovic (sophomore, music performance, violin), Jesus Parra (junior, music performance, viola), Shania Watts (senior, music performance, viola), Zoe Shiu (senior, music performance, violin and psychology), and Mailyn Iribar (sophomore, music performance, violin), along with their piano accompanists: Carlos Lugo (junior, music performance), Eleanor Joyce (senior, music education), Tyler Ninalga (senior, music performance), and Dr. Kenneth Logan. They all demonstrated on Change Day that it is possible to Change the World, one note at a time.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Processing Through Poetry: Raw & Real

Madison Vath 09.22.23



Photo by Pixabay

*Mom, can you come get me?
I'm so lonely and the people who I thought loved me seem to be leaving
I think I'm overreacting.
No, I'm definitely overreacting.
Nobody actually cares but somebody brought me coffee today and it balanced out the
tanginess of the salt sitting on my tongue
I don't know how to fix what's wrong
I don't want to think anymore
I don't know how to make my brain stop being mean
I don't I don't I don't
I
STOP
...*

Plato may disagree, but I love poetry. I love how different pieces can make a person feel other emotions, sometimes all in one rush. It can be an expression of thought and depth, or be comical and make someone laugh. Technically, there are rules to writing poetry (as my dear English professors read the above in horror), but I use it to process overwhelming emotions and what I like to call "unkind brain thoughts." To remind myself that I am, in fact, human and that I'm allowed to make mistakes. I wrote this one over the summer when the days became long, and the work shifts never seemed to end. The monotony of the same routine day in and day out, coupled with my being reasonably alone most of the time, began to take a toll on my mental health. From what I can recall, a close friend brought me coffee after I texted her about my second breakdown that day, hence line 5. Those who know me know my tendency to overthink until I send myself into a spiral. Readers may be happy to know that I am doing better than I was a year ago, but there are still the bad days when my brain can't seem to shut off.

Usually, when I write poetry (or prose, whatever you deem fit to call it), it represents what my thoughts can look like in a single moment. The syntax, or sentence structure, is made to look like different thoughts coming like lightning bolts and tripping on the ends of each other. This is shown through the lack of punctuation halfway through the poem, further emphasized by the repetition of the words "I don't." Not only does this exhibit the unkind brain thoughts coming at a faster and faster pace, but it also represents how I view my capabilities. More often than not, I'm gripped by fear whenever I attempt something new. It's the whole "I don't have what it takes to be successful in this situation." Entirely untrue, by the way. For anyone, not just me.

Some of this piece shows how both good and bad thoughts can be dichotomous or juxtaposed, side by side. Lines 5-6 are an example of this. They verbally manifest what my brain believes versus what is true. "I believe that nobody cares, but someone is showing me that they do, so these thoughts are, in fact, incorrect." I attempted to portray the helplessness one can experience in these moments and the mental fatigue. This can be seen as the poem's pace picks up towards the end until the last line ("STOP"), and suddenly, there's nothing but silence, which, at times, can be just as scary.

Ultimately, poetry is a personal reminder that my emotions, feelings, and thoughts are valid and to give myself grace when I think they're not. I am a human being with flaws and insecurities. I am more than my thoughts and go beyond my

feelings. Poetry helps me to process through these messy situations. Plato, a philosopher who hated the arts, can take a hike.

News

NEWS

Being Unstoppable: AU Fall Week of Prayer

Jonathan Clough [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Blaise Datoy

What is God's purpose for my life? How will living for my purpose transform me? And how can I use my purpose to enact positive change in our world? These are the sort of questions the Andrews community was asked to reckon with last week during the annual Week of Spiritual Emphasis (AKA Week of Prayer). As a Seventh-day Adventist institution, faith is the foundation of Andrews University's commitment to holistic education. As a way of starting the academic year with spiritual revival, the Andrews community set aside an hour a day for worship, praise, and connection with God. This year, the theme for Week of Prayer was "Be Unstoppable," and focused on discovering and enacting God's purpose in each of our lives. In a series of programs throughout the week, Pastor Taurus Montgomery, leader of the Harbor of Hope Group in Benton Harbor, explored ideas of identity, purpose, and direction within a Christian framework, and attempted to inspire each student at Andrews to discover their God-given purpose.

In Monday's program, Pastor Taurus set up his discussion for the week with a dive into his personal spiritual journey. He described his upbringing in a broken home, and how hopeless and purposeless his life was. While sharing his testimony, Pastor Taurus consistently pointed out how he didn't seek God to be present in his life to guide him. He said that without God, we might think our lives are in good shape, but that if we aren't living out God's will for our lives, we aren't living up to our potential. Perhaps one of the more striking things about Monday was when Pastor Taurus said that the best thing that ever happened to him was when his house burned down. In saying this, Pastor Taurus was explaining how God used a disaster to cause him to reevaluate his life and his priorities, and how that ultimately landed him back on the right path.

On Tuesday, the service took an unexpected turn. Rather than deliver a message, Pastor Taurus gave an emotional plea for those who feel lost and without an identity to come to the front in a rather unorthodox call to the altar. He asked for anyone who feels as though they are not in alignment with God's purpose to come forward to spend time in prayer and rededication to God. A sizable group came to the front, and many made a decision to examine their lives and allow the Holy Spirit to guide them.

On Wednesday, Pastor Taurus began to lay out his ideas on how to discover God's purpose. He introduced two vital components of turning one's life around: believing God's promises and processing one's pain. He said that when someone's life is going in the wrong direction, it can feel very hopeless. But a very important part of the restoration process is having hope. And as Christians, Pastor Taurus said, our hope comes from God. Believing that God will keep His promises is the way to ignite a spark of passion to follow God's plan for our lives. The other aspect he discussed was addressing our pains and traumas. All too often, when we find ourselves at a dead end, we leave the painful experiences that led us to that situation unaddressed, and find restoration impossible. As difficult as it is, Pastor Taurus said, we need to let God help us face our pain in order to live the way He wants us to.

Thursday was a bit of a deviation from the regular Week of Prayer routine, as it was Andrews' annual Change Day. All classes were canceled so that students could participate in a service project to give back to the community. Projects ranged from painting fire hydrants in St Joseph to picking up garbage along the highway. In addition to being a welcome break from class, Change Day was an amazing opportunity for students to change the world through service.

Finally, on Friday, the Andrews community received a double blessing with both a morning service and a vespers. The former tied the week up nicely with the third component to discover God's purpose: finding our gift. Like in the parable of the talents, God has given each of us many gifts to use for Him. Once we have been inspired by the hope God gives and processed the pain we have experienced, we are able to identify the way in which we are best fit to serve God. Pastor Taurus told a couple of stories to illustrate how he discovered writing was his gift. The three principles discussed – God's promises, our own pain, and the gifts God has given us – form a road map of sorts, detailing how to get our lives back on track. Having completed his outline of purpose, Pastor Taurus gave one last address Friday evening, discussing friend circles. That night, he painted a picture of an “unstoppable friend” – someone who will encourage you as you strive to fulfill

God's purpose for your life. A good, godly friend will challenge you to live to your fullest potential, and will be a spiritual anchor for your life. Friday night's service was a call to reflect on our closest relationships, and ensure that they are all enhancing rather than sabotaging our lives. Ultimately, the Andrews community was given a challenge this week of prayer to live up to our fullest potential through God. Hopefully, we all will develop a clearer picture of our purpose this school year, and draw ever closer to achieving our God-given ideal.

NEWS

FIBA Games Spark Questions for Competing Nations Ahead of the '24 Summer Olympics

Andrew Francis [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images

Basketball, for decades, was known as purely an American sport. It does not have the global reach of soccer, the media attention of American football, or as rich a history in several continents as baseball. It was not until the mid to late [1990s](#) that

professional basketball became more prominent internationally with the rise of European basketball leagues, and European and African players getting drafted into the National Basketball Association (NBA) more commonly. The addition of the Toronto Raptors and Vancouver Grizzlies (now relocated to Memphis, Tennessee) expansion teams into the NBA, officially made the highest level of professional basketball international. Fast forward over twenty years and America's lead over the world in basketball seems to be slipping swiftly.

In the past month, the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Cup ended surprisingly in the nations of the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia that hosted. In a competition of 32 nations, the United States, France, and Canada were early heavy favorites, with all three having many NBA stars on their rosters. None of them even made the championship game. France, with three-time NBA All-Star Rudy Gobert, did not even make it out of the group stage, including an upset loss to Latvia, a team with only two NBA role players on the roster with other Latvian Euro league players.

Canada and the United States lost in the semi-finals, setting up a high-profile third-place match that went into overtime, which ended in a Canadian victory. Houston Rockets guard Dillon Brooks, who had gained high-profile notoriety and ridicule within the NBA fandom and community for his distracting antics, comments, and lackluster performances on the court, shocked the All-Star studded US team by [scoring 39 points](#), with seven three-pointers in the win. Meanwhile, Germany beat Serbia in the finale to win the tournament, signifying North American dominance in basketball is slipping fast, if not already gone.

Although the competing teams outside of the United States ought to be acknowledged and celebrated properly, a big caveat for the world's international basketball success is the amount of top NBA stars opting out of representing their countries. While there are plenty of international basketball superstars that did not participate in the FIBA tournament, like Greece's Giannis Antetokounmpo, Cameroon's Joel Embiid, and Serbia's Nikola Jokic, the United States is missing out on several heavy hitters like Stephen Curry, LeBron James, Paul George, Jimmy Butler, and many others who could easily demote a lot of the players on the current roster.

Part of the reason many stars are not participating in international competitions like FIBA is health reasons, while another is that many athletes do not take FIBA very seriously. What athletes are known to take more seriously is the Summer

Olympics. Although the FIBA World Cup results help determine what teams qualify for the Olympics, global stars usually hold out on participating until the gold medals come out every four years, like they did in 2021. Soon after the US lost to Germany in the semifinal and Canada in the third-place game, stars like LeBron James have hinted at and are rumored to seek to join the United States roster for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics.

With the US basketball organization preparing to load up for its Olympic run, what will the competition look like, and how much success can the American favorites be expected to have? There is no doubt that other national teams will still respect the potential additional talent on the American side. However, even with the tweaking of the lineup, will the United States still be the favorite to begin with? And if not them, who will be moving forward? The one thing that can be certain is that basketball is absolutely a global sport, and its competition will only be getting better and better.

NEWS

Honors' Agape Feast Starts New Year of Faith and Fellowship

Andrew Francis [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Delgado Honors College

The J.N. Andrews Honors Program has a long history of encouraging its students to excel by supplying a supportive and intimate community around each student. The Honors Program continues to exhibit this community building through its bi-annual tradition and co-curricular event, where the department heads, as well as the student officers of the program, help organize and lead a vespers dinner. Honors students, non-honors students, families, and staff filed into the vast lobby of the Howard Performing Arts Center, which was transformed by Dr. L. Monique Pittman, the Director of Honors, and her team into a lovely dining room and performing stage.

Before the program's start, Dr. Pittman was willing to share her knowledge of the Agape Feast, its history, and its importance in bringing together the Honors family within the greater Andrews community.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. L. MONIQUE PITTMAN

When was the Honors Agape Feast first organized, and what is the primary goal of this program?

“I took over as director of Honors in 2007-08, and I inherited that tradition from the director before me, Gordon Atkins, and it was an annual event. I continued the tradition, but decided to make it twice a year, so we had that kind of gathering each semester. The goal, especially in the fall, is to mark the spiritual start of the term, gather the larger community of Honors and friends – non-honors friends are always welcomed. Especially in the fall for the freshmen, it’s important to see the wider Honors group.”

How many non-Honors students and staff usually attend the Agape Feast?

“People will bring roommates and friends who aren’t in honors,...I’d bet...about 20-25% that come [are not in Honors]. All of the Honors Council, the group of people who help us make policy for the program, come. Friends of Honors, let’s say, who have been research mentors for a long time, we always try to invite them.”

How do you choose what speakers and participants to use for this event?

“The Honors student officers make a lot of the decisions. We usually like to invite faculty members associated with the program or alumni members who are in the

area. We think of all different questions about representation when it comes to who we have up front. We try to think of how frequently we have women, men, people of color, so that we're giving that big sense of who we are."

Do you have any particular memories of specific iterations of the Agape Feast that have stuck with you over the years?

"They are all really precious to me! Every Agape feast channels that whole history of them that I've been a part of. The routines of it trigger those memories of students passed. And I love it when alumni come back too!"

What are you looking forward to the most with this year's Honors Agape Feast?

"I love seeing everybody gathered! For me food is meaningful. Breaking bread together gives a sense of meaning and home, so I always love seeing everybody gathered. Seeing the freshmen get integrated into the program, I think, is enriching."

What would you say to an Honors student, or any other student, who hesitates to come to the Agape Feast to convince them to attend?

"Please join us! This is about finding a place that is welcoming and open where we practice Christ's openness of love. The goal is to show that love and embrace and welcome others. We're so happy to be together, to worship, to celebrate, in this case, the start of the new year, and to find your people in that mix."

Once doors opened at 6 pm on Friday evening, guests lined up for soups and sparkling drinks, and had a lovely assortment of breads, cheeses, and fruits at each table to pick through. Guests were then given time to sit with their friends, classmates, and teachers and fellowship before the worship service began. Several students who had volunteered earlier went to the front to perform, speak, or lead out in singing with the whole gathering, as everyone had song lyrics on their seats. Towards the end, Professor Kylene Cave, who serves as an Assistant Professor of English within the English and Honors Departments, spoke on her experiences through an extremely difficult health challenge, a stroke, and dealing with that while the Covid-19 pandemic was beginning to accelerate across the world. She

was able to find the value in being still with God through her physical and mental struggles, just as her illness put her in forced stillness. She asserted that being able to pause for God and be still with him despite the stressors that revolve around human life, especially a college lifestyle, will help bring clarity and peace into our lives. After being left with Cave's testimony, all in attendance could leave encouraged entering the school year.

Ideas

IDEAS

A Life Worth Living

Reagan Westerman [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Blaise Datoy

During Andrews University's Fall week of prayer, we were presented with the big idea: "Living God's Purpose For Your Life." Taurus Montgomery, lead pastor of Harbor of Hope SDA Church in Benton Harbor, presented this topic in depth based on Proverbs 19:21, *"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*

Throughout the week, Pastor Taurus revealed pieces of his testimony. While focusing on specific events of his life, he intertwined the message in a very inspiring and unique way. In 1997, Taurus says he was blessed to have his house burnt down. It is reiterated that having his house, the only place he has ever called home, slowly burn to the ground, was the best thing to have ever happened to him. From this tragedy he was able to demonstrate how if we as Christians turn away from God, we are ultimately backing into the hands of Satan, little by little. It isn't that God is making horrible things happen, but the decisions we make that separate us from God, ultimately allowing the devil and the consequences of sin to enter our lives and pass beyond that barrier of God's protection and enter our lives. It was not until his house was in flames and Pastor Taurus lost everything that he

repented and gave his life to Jesus.

“Believing the promises,” he says, is an important aspect of knowing God’s plan for your life. Allowing God to work in your life, fully submitting to His will, gives you more than a purpose; it gives you a fulfilled heart that nothing else can replicate. God promises to take care of all your needs (Philippians 4:19), He promises to answer your prayers (John 16:23-24), and He promises to protect you (Psalm 91:3-4). God cannot—in fact, He is unable to—lie, because whatever He says becomes truth. Whatever he speaks comes into existence. He spoke our world into existence (Psalm 33:9). If whatever He says becomes a part of our reality, then why should we not believe His promises, that they will also be true for us? He can’t not love, protect, guide, or care for us, because He said He would. Knowing this can help grow our faith and believe in His promises for our lives.

Another major point the speaker reaffirmed was to process the pain. He admits in his own life there was abuse, break-ins, and easy gateways to sin that confined him and disturbed his peace, encircling him until Jesus set him free. Taurus explains that he knew how it was to be lost, separated from our Creator. However, when he came to Andrews, he was elated to find that the university offered free counseling to their students! He made use of this resource and was able to process his trauma. Taurus was able to seek the help he so desperately needed. Little did he know, while he was seeking, God was already working in his life, drawing him closer. “...God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Taurus continued his journey at Andrews as a three-week-old Christian, expressing to the audience that some boys invited him to play cards, but instead he began preaching the Word, and the whole boys' dorm gathered around and listened to the message Taurus was extending to them. A brand new Christian! Three weeks old! How old are we in our faith? How long have we walked with God and done nothing to serve Him or His will for our lives?

Taurus was granted a gift. The gift to speak, open his mouth and allow the Holy Spirit to guide his words into the hearts of his attentive listeners. He ends with the story of how he was giving a speech to a crowd, how very unprepared and tired he was. He knew this was probably the poorest speech he had given in a long time. Yet, in the end, a woman came up to him and expressed how his speech had impacted her life and motivated her to be better, to give her life to God. This goes to show that no matter if you are at your worst, God can still speak through you. God sees beyond what we see. If He has willing disciples, He works beyond what we believe we are capable of.

Taurus soon learned that while he was speaking God's word, he would also be reminded and renewed inside. God doesn't just use our gift to transform those around us, but transforms us in the process. When we submit to the Lord, He creates a life for us we didn't even know we could ever dream for ourselves! He gives us a purpose that is greater than one we could ever come up for ourselves. His purpose, His love, is so much more than we could ever imagine. Why shouldn't we accept it, and live it today?

IDEAS

The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show Returns: Is it a Marketing Tactic or Genuine Change?

Daena Holbrook [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Glenn Francis

This month, the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show will make a comeback. After being canceled in 2019, this controversial and iconic pop culture phenomenon is being reimagined in response to backlash from previous shows. This new version of the show will air on September 23, 2023, with a reframed focus on diversity and creative women. What has led Victoria's Secret to decide to make this change?

How did the original runway show become so popular?

Victoria's Secret underwear has been marketed as something that made you glamorous and prestigious. They created this identity through the widely popular Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. This annual fashion show peaked in [2011 with 10.3 million viewers](#). Models coveted the position of "Victoria's Secret Angel"-- a model who walked the runway with beautiful wings in Victoria's Secret underwear. Famous music artists performed at each fashion show, and celebrities walked the catwalk. It was a huge event every year: a true pop culture phenomenon. The popularity of this spectacle contributed to how the company's products were viewed. Women who bought their underwear were willing to spend money because they wanted to feel like they were living the fantastical and glamorous lifestyle promoted by the characters of the fashion show.

Why was the original runway show canceled?

By the late 2010s, public opinion of Victoria's Secret changed. As models talked about their dedicated lifestyles to achieve the Victoria's Secret perfect standard, people began to realize that not everything the models did was healthy. Healthy habits such as limiting alcohol, exercising, and eating more vegetables were accompanied by cutting out fruit because it had too much sugar, not drinking water, and in some cases, [limiting calories to 800 a day](#). As time passed, this lifestyle was no longer something women aspired to have.

Public opinion also changed concerning how they responded to advertisements. The allure of the unachievable Victoria's Secret Angel no longer appealed to the public. As their sales decreased, more inclusive companies, such as Savage X Fenty and Aerie, gained prominence. These companies promoted racial and body diversity in their models and shifted their focus from fantasy to practicality. For example, Aerie marketed itself as a company that prioritized comfort. Their main goal was to make underwear for the everyday woman: they didn't even airbrush or alter their models' photos in their ads. This was the polar opposite of the curated perfect bodies and skin of the Victoria's Secret Angels. To the public, Aerie was a

breath of fresh air. [According to Business Insider in 2016](#), “Since removing altered pictures from its advertising, Aerie has seen a huge payoff. Sales skyrocketed a whopping 26% in the most recent quarter.”

Because of the declining popularity and negative public opinion of the Victoria’s Secret Company, the fashion show also suffered. Viewers decreased, and the Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show was canceled in 2018.

What is the new show going to be?

After much criticism, in 2021, Victoria’s Secret rebranded to focus more on inclusivity and diversity. Now, two years later, the Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show is making a comeback, completely transformed. They have mirrored Aerie and Savage X Fenty to put the importance of the everyday woman and what she wants first. This new show is no longer filled with carbon-copy models, but instead seems to put more emphasis on the beauty and art from women around the world.

The show will feature women that make up four different fashion houses from Bogotá, Lagos, London, and Tokyo, who will present their work on the runway. These teams include fashion designers, painters, musicians, writers, filmmakers, and artists. [On its website, Victoria’s Secret describes](#) the scope of the show: “With the creative freedom to conceptualize, produce, and stage a collection that is all their own, the dynamic artistic forces from the fashion, film, design, music, and visual fields will converge to showcase their work that centers on the appreciation and beauty of womanhood.” Even the aesthetics of the show have completely changed. Although they will still incorporate recognizable aspects of the old shows, such as the iconic wings and women who were originally “Victoria’s Secret Angels,” it is no longer the sexy spectacle of “perfect bodies.” The marketing suggests it will be more cinematic and artistic instead.

Is this rebrand a marketing tactic or a step in the right direction?

Victoria’s Secret has implemented some considerable changes in the past five years. The unattainable fantasy is not profitable anymore. With this new show, it seems that they intend to convey a new type of “Victoria's Secret Angel," one that is beautiful without needing to fit a perfect mold, one that doesn’t need to have an unhealthy lifestyle to see herself as beautiful. This concept seems like it will be enthusiastically welcomed by the public, but will it seem disingenuous? This focus on diversity and inclusion seems like an afterthought to some. Will women feel like they are being marketed to and that this company is only shifting because it has

lost money? Or does that even matter? It seems like women's underwear companies are shifting to market to "what women want," and "what women want" is being separated from "what men want." These changes could simply be a net positive, regardless of marketing tactics. In the end, it is your own decision where you decide to shop and what you choose to watch. Will you tune into the new Victoria's Secret show?

Pulse

PULSE

AU Sports

Alyssa Caruthers [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Ragét Ricketts

With Andrews University being a small, private institution, the sports program is not as emphasized as it would be at a larger college. For those who may want to play sports but are unaware of the resources and quality of the programs offered

here, I asked current student-athletes from each sport offered at AU (soccer, volleyball, and basketball), along with the Women's Soccer Team coach, how their experience has been so far and what they believe the school spirit on campus is like.

I think over time the school's leadership has come to give more attention to the student-athletes and support them through their journey. After all, they are representing the university's name and demonstrating to others that one can focus on both their career pathway and hobbies. In women's soccer, though, it has always been hard to receive support...honestly, in any female sport, it's hard to find the same support the men receive. It's simply a different style and way of playing. Gradually, we are receiving more support from our peers. However, there are always people who will speak badly, which is really unfortunate because unkind words don't uplift the athletes. What people need is to uplift one another in good and hard times.

Sophia Martinez (junior, health science pre-physical therapy) AU Women's Soccer Team Captain

My only gripe is that facilities for the basketball and volleyball programs are very developed. They have a large multipurpose gym with several courts equipped with a locker room and showers, while soccer only has a field with a currently dysfunctional scoreboard. In addition to that, even though I doubt it would ever be achieved, is the introduction of sports scholarships to entice higher quality athletes thus raising the standard of athletics even further.

Jaquan Darrell (sophomore, finance) AU Men's Soccer Team

I feel like the quality of the sports program is pretty good as this is the first year for the volleyball team. They just recently added two more assistant coaches at our most recent practice, on top of the main coach and assistant coach we already had. We haven't had a scrimmage game yet, but I think that once the games do start we might have a decent amount of support because I feel like volleyball is such a fun sport to watch and it's often full at volleyball open gym.

Sophia Lim (junior, psychology) AU Women's Volleyball Team

I feel like we have a great sports program. I wish we had more resources when it comes to women's athletics, but the program as a whole is good. I feel like our school has lots of school spirit when it comes to the basketball games. I just wish there was a little more school spirit for the women's sports program.

Samantha Woolford-Hunt (sophomore, graphic design) AU Women's Basketball Team

The level of support from both school leadership and my peers varies. While some individuals in leadership roles and among my peers are genuinely supportive (ex. [former] VP Michael Nixon & student Zyon Wiley (graduate, physical therapy), there are also those who may not consistently offer support, especially during tough losses. True support goes beyond words and extends to actions, especially during tough games.

Increasing school spirit for our sports teams would create a more positive and motivating atmosphere. When athletes feel a strong sense of backing from their school community, it boosts their confidence and performance, ultimately fostering a more cohesive and successful sports culture on campus.

Mugabe Menani (sophomore, nursing) AU Men's Basketball Team Captain

Keeping the school size in mind, I believe our sports programs are in good condition. We are working to provide proper off-season training for the athletes to best prepare them for the seasons ahead using better metrics like VO2 Max testing and Sports Performance Training. I think it would be great to see more faculty and staff come together along with the student body to support the University athletes. I think school spirit could be enhanced with more Cardinal merchandise for students to rep at games and on campus.

Daron Raynor (Lady Cardinal's Soccer Team Coach, first year)

As you can see, a common theme among our student-athletes (and coaches) is that there could always be room for improvement in the sports programs, especially with school spirit. If you don't know when the games are, ask a friend or athlete, or follow @andrewscardinals on Instagram for game days and times. One of the best ways to improve the sports programs here is just to show up and support. It will definitely be encouraging for the student-athletes and will create a sense of community at AU games.

PULSE

More Change Day Experiences

Various Students 09.22.23



Photo by Anasimeci Maimanuku

Dominique Thomas, Freshman, Elementary Education

For change day I couldn't figure out what to do until my sister asked me to join her to go with the Architecture group. If I'm being honest, I wasn't 100% sure about what activities I was signing up to participate in. We arrived in Benton Harbor where a woman named Ms. Ashley explained what we were helping with. They didn't have a grocery store or small market near their neighborhood so she started a garden where people that lived around would come and help harvest and grow food there for each other. Unfortunately since school started back up people had more responsibilities and things to do, so not a lot of people were able to help out to keep it intact. That's where we come in! We came to just help them clean the garden backup and restore what was there. I had a really fun time and a great

experience working with the vegetable gardens and doing something out of my comfort zone. I also got to help out the community and help make a change!

Renee Wisdom, Freshman, Photography

My change day experience was one of the longest days of the semester. This year I gained the position of PR on AUSA's team. Change day was an event AUSA hosted this year and all members had to be present at 6:45 a.m. Having soccer practice and homework the night before the wake up was rough, but nonetheless I was on time. As VP of Public Relations, I had to gain content all day for not only Change Day but for the after party as well. Running around everywhere helping with setup and catching footage was a very stressful thing. In addition to setting up, I had to run to take photos for BSCF at their car wash. This task wasn't hard, but finding the time and taking pictures efficiently was sort of a struggle. All day I was trying to figure out how I would travel to BSCF's car wash, I finally asked my coworker and she said "I'll drop you off with the golf cart" (Sara Santana, Psychology Major). This was extremely helpful because I would've had to walk to Apple Valley to help support them. I can say the best time that I had was at the Change Day after party, there were a lot of fun things going on and filming footage was a blast. If I could change anything I would change how much sleep I got so I felt rested for the day.

Amanda Park, Freshman, Explore Andrews

All of my friends signed up to go to Love Creek because of the Biology extra credit, so I signed up for it, too. Honestly speaking, I had a very tiring week, with very little sleep. So I was reluctant to go, but went anyway. Initially, I thought we were going to an actual creek with running water but was relieved when I found out that we would not be going near running water. The chores we did were fairly simple: picking up trash and removing the invasive plant that was taking over, honeysuckle. My friends and I walked about a mile picking up trash and it was so therapeutic. Where I'm from there isn't a spot that I've found where I can't hear the noise of busy life. Besides the six cars that drove past us, there was utter silence. We got to see wildflowers, birds, multiple corn fields, and the beautiful sky. After we finished picking up trash we joined the rest of the group in removing the honeysuckle by breaking sticks and crushing up leaves. This was another therapeutic activity, breaking the sticks. Something about this reminded me of a rage room, where a person just breaks and ruins things to let out rage. Overall, I'm still pretty tired but glad that I went out today.

The Strange Thing About Service

Wambui Karanja 09.22.23



Photo by Ragét Ricketts

On **Thursday of last week**, Andrews University held its annual day of service—coined Change Day. Students were given the opportunity to choose from a selection of various service projects. Some of these projects included painting fire hydrants, assisting with tasks at a women’s shelter, and packing gifts for incarcerated individuals.

In reflecting on the events of Change Day, it occurred to me that service seems to be an integral part of human functioning. Though the motives behind our service-based actions may be variable, we all engage with them in some way. Service, as it will be discussed in this article, is simply the act of helping or doing work for another. This can be anything from holding the door open for someone coming behind you to living a life dedicated to solving the global food crisis. Because the concept of service is so broad—containing numerous layers, motivations, and other nuances—how do we extract purpose from the service in which we engage? What exactly is it that makes what we do for others meaningful?

I believe that part of what validates the service we take part in is the rationale for why we are doing what we are doing. I have found it to be the case that, for many (myself included), the desire to perform acts of service often comes from the natural human propensity toward self-centeredness. This can manifest itself in the form of us engaging in service with the ultimate goal of having others view us in a more altruistic light; to have people look at us and think *wow, they're a really good person for doing that*. While this motivation may not be the reason for every act of service we perform, I think most of us can admit that this line of thinking has affected us at some point in our lives.

Still, there are others of us who conclude that we do good things because, at our core, we are genuinely good people. We believe that our intrinsic sense of compassion for humanity is the foundation for our subtly philanthropic acts of kindness. It recently came to me, however, that even the purest of intentions may not be entirely pure—at least not in the sense that we typically consider things pure. Here's why: I am not of the persuasion that humans are capable of putting forth any amount of energy into something that does not affect us personally. Meaning, we only ever do service because, on some level, it fulfills a need that we have. These needs can include the need to fulfill the innate desire for interpersonal connection, the need to feel needed, or the need to “do the right thing” as it relates to our own philosophical paradigm.

In my own life, I have seen this play out in the form of feeling immense emotional discomfort at the pain of others. Being a self-proclaimed empath, it has almost made me think highly of myself because I feel so much internal pull to alleviate the pain of those around me. However, in developing this new perspective, I realized that my desire to alleviate another's pain only stems from the emotional discomfort I feel within myself. Yes, that discomfort may be triggered by an external source, but it is only my own unrest that truly causes me to act. Should I not experience any internal unrest at the observing of another's plight, I would never do anything to help mitigate that plight.

I found this perspective to be quite disheartening when I first pondered it. Are we all egotistical to the point that if we are not emotionally or otherwise triggered, we will not do anything purely for the sake of helping another? What I have now realized, however, is that this phenomenon is merely an expression of what it means to be human. The term empathy is used to describe the ability to place one's self in the proverbial shoes of another. Our tendency to connect ourselves with another's experience, by imploring empathy, is what makes our service

meaningful. We are hardwired for connection. Being consciously aware of this aspect of our humanity can be the first step in finding a deeper appreciation for service.

PULSE

Uplifting Spiritual Spaces on Campus: Reflections from Nicole Compton-Gray

Nicole Compton-Gray [09.22.23](#)



Photo by Debby Hudson from Unsplash

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, and envy one another. Galatians 5:22-26 (Andrews Study Bible NKJV)

Here is the scavenger hunt that led me to write this article: While attending a Social Work vespers, Dr. Desiree Davis, Associate Professor of Social Work, asked our group, “What about Andrews is more?” Ask yourself what your answer is to this question. Mine was simply “God!” I don’t know if you realize how blessed we are to attend a university where God’s presence is the daily focus. There are countless prayers of intercession for every one of us going to Jesus every morning, noon, and night. All we have to do is ask for help, accept it, and confidently enact God’s intention. All faculty members on this campus were appointed prayerfully to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ on this campus. If you are upset or need help, all you have to do is reach out. We have chaplains, advisors, professors, student leaders, counselors, librarians, and many more who have sworn to help you in the name of Jesus prayerfully.

During the Week of Prayer, I pondered this subject as our guest, Pastor Taurus Montgomery, openly discussed his stumbling blocks and how God led him to his purpose. On Tuesday, I walked into the sanctuary, struggling to contain the emotions I felt inside. I tried to suppress the tears that insistently wanted to escape my eyes and constricted my vocal cords as all sang along to the opening praises. Imagine my utter astonishment when Pastor Montgomery stood up and was also overcome with tears, being moved by the Spirit (John 1:7-9, John 10:27) to lament over those in the sanctuary needing prayer and deliverance (Matthew 23:37). How many of you heard the calling of John 21:15-19 during the week of prayer?

I contemplated the week with the behavior of others weighing heavy on my mind. I had witnessed instances of unfavorable behavior of others throughout the week. So I asked, “God, am I to call attention to the workings of your adversary here?” As the Sabbath approached, I sought guidance from the Holy Spirit with intercessory prayer from the chaplains during Proximity’s Vespers and let go. The Holy Spirit hijacked my regular Sabbath routine. My alarm didn’t wake me, the 1st service didn’t air online, the virtual Sabbath school class audio was malfunctioning, and Pastor Rybachek stepped aside to allow Kari Gibbs-Prouty to give the sermon. A walk in faith requires surrendering.

Do you seek breadcrumbs from the Lord? So, with my lunch plans out the window and in a substitute Sabbath school class, I was reminded to accept the shield of the Holy Spirit with guidance. The sermon reminded me of the right hand of God and aligned with my Wellness 360 Limbo training. Then, with the close of Sabbath evening, I was blessed to spend vespers with the group at The Hillside Haven Home. Dr. Taylor gave a devotional about Puah and Shifrah in Exodus 1:15-21—

midwives who chose to do what was right and serve God despite the king's orders. Dr. Taylor and Dr. Faehner closed the evening by answering how they met their beautiful, kind, and modest wives. How their wives' character drew their attention to them, and how they chose to date their wives with purpose and intention. You could hear the fondness both men hold for their wives to this day as they spoke to the large group of us gathered around them in silent awe, listening intently.

Do you believe our generation has deteriorated morally? How can that be if we are Matthew 7:7-12 Christians? We can appreciate professors who pray for us and stand firm in faith. The Spirit of God can actively intercede and inspire everywhere His people gather. So many young men and women here choose to serve God and follow the examples of their mentors serving Christ. I see your modest dress and temperaments so as not to be stumbling blocks to your brothers and sisters in faith. I see you serving those in need. I see you choosing words of kindness instead of words that hurt. I see you using skills of diplomacy and maturity, using proper channels and chains of command to address concerns or complaints. I see you ensuring no one is left out and never feels uncomfortable. I see a generation with conviction, purpose, and compassion ready to change the world. So, thank you, World Changers, for choosing more and improving the world with your footprints of faithfulness!

Last Word

LAST WORD

An Advertising-Free Zone

Scott Moncrieff 09.22.23

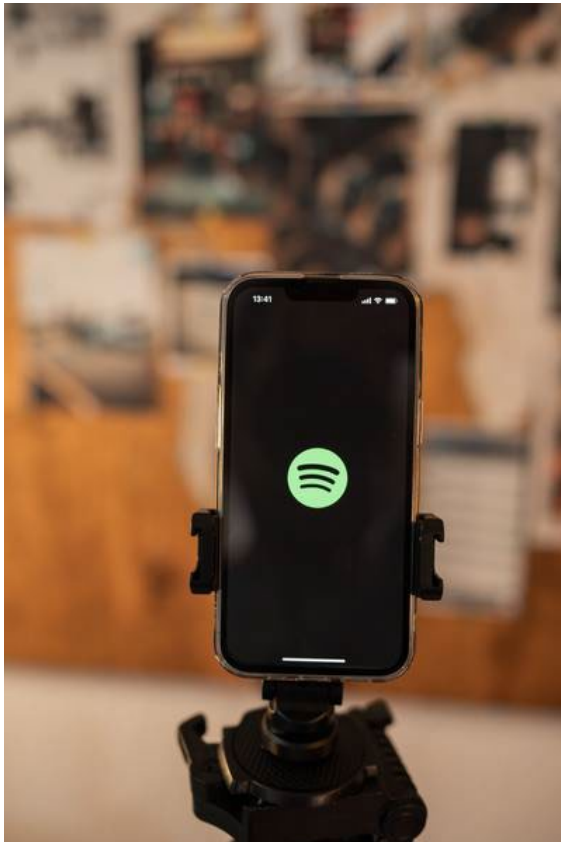


Photo by Amar Preciado

I'm one month into a three-month free trial of Spotify Premium, and I'm loving it. So far, my favorite playlists are:

R. Todd Webb's [Near to the Heart of God—Meditations for Piano](#), [Jazz Piano for a Rainy Night](#), and [Jazz Piano Classics](#).

Are you sensing a piano theme here? But the best. THE BEST. The awesomest most wonderful and splendid thing about this is that THERE ARE NO ADVERTISEMENTS. I'm not hearing "[How Long Has it Been?](#)" and suddenly being reminded that it's been about six minutes since the last sports drink, amazing gambling opportunity, or diet pill has been thrust in my face. I had subscribed to Free Spotify for about three months and mulled over offers of one or two months ad-free trial of Spotify, but when the ADVERTISEMENT for three months free came along I couldn't resist. Is there a paradox here? A contradiction? Yes, I embraced an ad for an ad-free product. I exchanged Free Spotify for Ad-Free Spotify and I haven't looked back.

It is so wonderful to enter a room without clutter, a room where no one is present that I do not invite, where there's no junk piled on the desk. And that is what Spotify Premium is giving me. (Despite appearances, this is not an ad for Spotify Premium). Like you, I'm constantly blasted, bombarded, bludgeoned, by advertising, even at the gas pump, and I'm sick of it. I didn't realize how sick of it I was until I got Premium. When I watch YouTube videos about the golf swing or golf highlights or piano arpeggio technique or additional golf highlights or "how to play jazz from a lead sheet" videos I turn my head while the ad plays. I have my body tensed and trained to hit "Skip Ad" in 6.001 seconds. I hate all the advertising, but for some reason I'm more ready to put up with it on YouTube than on Spotify. Another thing I hate (ok, "passionately dislike"—I'm trying to save "hate" for extreme cases) is monthly subscription prices. No Netflix. No Amazon Prime. No cable TV. But Spotify Premium is worth it.

When I was a kid, maybe ten years old, our family got its first TV, a black and white job about the size of a small tote bag (and what's up with the flood of tote bags these days, BTW?) with two knobs on top, one for VHF and one for UHF. You had to jump off the couch, go over to the TV and turn a volume knob down to silence the advertising. My dad loved it when we upgraded to a TV with a remote that had a mute button. He could hit that thing with his thumb [like Robin Hood splitting the arrow of Philip of Arras](#) (Errol Flynn version).

I might say it's a family thing, this ha passionate dislike of advertising, but it's clearly shared by a lot of people, [210 million of whom subscribe to Spotify Premium](#), compared to 347 million people of free Spotify, as of earlier this year.

Still accessible with a tight budget, which is good. When I mentioned my Premium experience to office colleagues they enthusiastically numbered themselves among the 210 million. I just crossed paths with a friend who told me he hates (passionately dislikes) the ads on Hulu, which he gets on top of paying a subscription.

Why do most of us passionately dislike ads? What is an advertisement? Because we are fish swimming in a sea of advertising, sometimes we don't even realize what water is. An ad is something that is not part of the experience you are pursuing, but it is aggressively inserted into that experience (the increased volume of ads is maddening). It is an obstacle to that experience that you have to overcome in order to have that experience, and the experience of that ad degrades the experience you are trying to have. It's peach season now in Michigan, and I've been eating two or three peaches a day. Incredible. But with most of the peaches, you need to trim out a few brown spots before you eat prime peach. But at least THE BROWN SPOTS AREN'T SINGING AND DANCING AND TELLING YOU TO BUY BUDWEISER. They just quietly lay there until you scrape them into the compost bucket.

Yesterday, I was at the doctor's office. A dentist's office shares the waiting room. I was sitting on the dentist's side, trying to read a book while I waited for my appointment. The dentist's office had a large screen TV next to its reception desk running continuous advertisements for different dental services. I got up from my chair, took a couple of deep breaths and asked God to help me to speak kindly to the receptionist. "I'm trying to read a book," I said. "I'm in a public space. I resent that the dental office is encroaching on that public space by running these commercials for its services." Maybe a dentist/doctor reception room doesn't qualify as a "public space" by your definition, but still.

The receptionist blinked, perhaps taking a breath and asking God to help her deal kindly with this random annoyed person, and said "these are not advertisements. They're educational videos about what services our office provides. Are you here for a dental appointment?"

"No," I said. "I'm here for a doctor's appointment."

"Well," said the receptionist. "You can go over there" (pointing to the other side of the room). I took her counsel, but could still hear the dental office TV every second,

just like the princess with the pea. Except only the princess was sensitive enough to feel the pea under seven mattresses, while all of us feel the continual assault of advertising.

We live in a capitalist consumerist society, which means we have lots of businesses clamoring for our attention to buy their products. This gives us lots and lots of nice products, and many of them are good to eat, help us accomplish things more easily, are nice to wear. As I type, I'm enjoying wearing my Aerotech tall size windproof cycling [jacket](#). It's much nicer than wearing a gunny sack.

But still, I love living in an ad-free space.

Scott Moncrieff is a Professor of English and Faculty Advisor of the Student Movement. He will not gain any financial benefit if you click any or all of these links.