

HONORARY DEGREE—MAY 2026

Ernestine Finley

Doctor of Humane Letters

Ernestine Finley has inspired thousands of health-conscious individuals to improve their quality of life, reduce their risk of disease and increase their longevity. As an author and health educator, she is known worldwide for her cooking classes and wellness ministry.

Born in Portland, Maine, Finley attended Portland Junior Academy, South Lancaster Academy and, later, Atlantic Union College. She holds degrees in communications and personal ministries, with a major concentration on community health outreach.

Her first assignment in Seventh-day Adventist church work was as a teacher in Hartford, Connecticut. Since that point, she has expanded her ministry on a global scale alongside her husband, Mark. Finley has developed the unique ability to inspire others to make hospitality a way of life, and she has been featured in several newspaper articles for her nutrition series and initiatives.

In 1991, she joined *It Is Written International Television*, where she conducted training seminars, health expos and cooking classes for audiences around the world. Reaching more than 1,500 cities in the United States and internationally, these broadcast satellite programs inspired countless individuals to practice healthy living.

Inspired by her personal love for entertaining guests and passion for preparing healthy, plant-based dishes, she has published several cookbooks, workbooks and manuals on healthful living. Her most recent book, “A Lifetime of Hospitality,” was published in 2025 and explores the powerful connection between hospitality and the Adventist health message, offering fresh perspectives on fellowship, community and ministry.

Her vegetarian cookbook, “Natural Lifestyle Cooking,” received high praise from physicians, health professionals and people from all walks of life across the country. Finley has also co-authored multiple books and training manuals, such as “Lifestyle 2000” and “Light Your World for God,” with her husband.

In the last 50 years, she has hosted more than 300 Natural Lifestyle Cooking Classes, with over 25,000 attendees. During this time, she has served over a quarter of a million vegetarian food samples to her audiences. Finley has been a featured speaker at various conventions, including ministerial workers’ retreats, women’s groups and camp meetings, and she has appeared alongside her husband on television networks worldwide. Together, they have conducted over 200 evangelistic series on almost every continent.

Currently, the Finleys continue their ministry at the Living Hope Evangelism Training Center in Haymarket, Virginia, where they conduct a school and retreat center for pastors hailing from throughout North America. Finley enjoys preparing delicious, plant-based meals for attendees of the center and sharing health insights through wellness classes for both pastors and laypeople. As an advocate of the healthy lifestyle that she teaches, she ran her first marathon at the age of 70.

For her deep commitment to advocating for and providing health education in a sustainable and accessible format for thousands of people around the world, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Ernestine Finley with the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.