Glenn Russell

Today, the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Glenn Russell, whose ongoing dedication to the mentoring and involvement of students in active mission service has distinguished him among his colleagues.

Born in Egypt to missionary parents and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, Russell has lived a life shaped by global mission and gospel service. He is a graduate of Columbia Union College, now Washington Adventist University, holds a Master of Divinity from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University and completed a Doctor of Ministry from Trinity International University.

Russell spent 10 years pastoring in Virginia and Maryland before he became a religion teacher at Andrews Academy from 1985 to 1999, shaping the spiritual and academic lives of high school students. In 1999, he joined the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages at Andrews University, where he taught and mentored University students for over two decades, serving with distinction as department chair. He retired in 2022 and now holds the title professor emeritus of religion.

Throughout his career, Russell has been a driving force behind student engagement in global mission. In 2005, he directed the University's first undergraduate global evangelism campaign and subsequently took students to countries such as Benin, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Lebanon and Honduras for evangelistic campaigns. His commitment to service extends to his leadership of ongoing annual mission trips to Honduras and Lebanon.

He has served the wider church through media ministry as host of the Bible program Scriptural Pursuit, which aired on Hope Channel TV from 1991 to 2006 and continues as a weekly radio broadcast on WAUS. Russell is also the author of two books on religion for secondary Bible curriculum in North America. His voice and vision have reached local and global audiences through sermons, articles, television series, and presentations at camp meetings, youth congresses and educational institutions.

From his early days as a Bible teacher at Andrews Academy to his leadership as chair of the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages, Russell has exemplified a life of passionate service, unwavering faith and Christ-centered education. His outstanding contributions to both the classroom and the Andrews community have been recognized with numerous honors, including the Teacher of the Year Award (2007), Spiritual Life Leadership Award (2007), Advisor of the Year Award (2010) and Daniel A. Augsburger Excellence in Teaching Award (2012).

Russell is married to Sharon, a retired reading specialist, and together they have two adult children and three grandchildren.

For exceptional commitment to Christian education, global mission and spiritual mentorship, the faculty of Andrews University are proud to present Glenn Russell with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.