Dear Lexie,

Ten-Hut!

I can't even count how many times I have heard that command, let alone given it. I do have a vivid memory of that command as a 10-year-old Pathfinder. I was the scribe for my unit and once the director gave that command we all had to stand still, backs straight with our arms at our sides. My job was to give our unit report when called upon by the director. I don't remember the details of what I said that day but I do remember being scared. When I finished speaking my counselor, Mr. Carlson, whispered from behind, "great job". My Pathfinder career had begun.

Pastoral Positions Filled At Sligo Church

Richard Castillo, Communications Director for the Oklahoma Conference will serve as the new
This Sabbath:
January 17, 2015

Speaker:
Victor Kindo
1st Service: "Chasing the Lions and Bears"

2nd Service: "Knocking Down the Armored Giant"

Special Musical Guests:
Kimberley Fakeye
Anna Karla Carreno
Jasmine Chavez
Hannah Pelote
Dawn Reynolds

Media and Outreach Pastor at Sligo Church beginning March 1, 2015.

Joseph Khabbaz, Associate Youth Director in the South Queensland Conference in Australia, has accepted a call to serve as Youth and Young Adult Pastor at Sligo Church. He plans to arrive at Sligo in March 2015.

WAU Professor Presents Adventist Demographic Study

The results of a study on Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) demographics in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area were presented recently at the Adventist Community Action Council's first meeting of the new year. The group is comprised of leaders of Adventist churches, organizations and community groups who coordinate their efforts and resources to address key community issues. Although the study was completed in 2009, the results were again presented to help new ACAC members better understand Adventist demographics and perspectives as they plan their activities for 2015.

Holiday Travel for Caring Card Club

The Christmas holidays are usually a time of travel, relaxation, celebration and catching up on sleep. But on Tuesday, December 30, several young people took time from a busy schedule and met at Sligo Adventist School to spend a day (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) working on preparing messages for each of the 20 schools being prayed for by Sligo Church members. The Caring Card Club meets weekly
after school to learn techniques for crafting cards, send messages in commercial cards and select electronic card sites to use for communicating encouragement.

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Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church | 7700 Carroll Avenue | Takoma Park | MD | 20912
Ten-Hut!

Scott Lawrence

I can’t even count how many times I have heard that command, let alone given it. I do have a vivid memory of that command as a 10-year-old Pathfinder. I was the scribe for my unit and once the director gave that command we all had to stand still, backs straight with our arms at our sides. My job was to give our unit report when called upon by the director. I don’t remember the details of what I said that day but I do remember being scared. When I finished speaking my counselor, Mr. Carlson, whispered from behind, “great job”. My Pathfinder career had begun.

That adult mentorship was critical to my spiritual and emotional growth. I grew up in a very strong Christian family but having another adult, and in fact, many other adults, take an interest in my success strongly influenced who I am today. Over the years I have had the privilege of seeing many boys and girls become Pathfinders and grow as spiritual leaders. I believe more today, than ever, in the need for a safe, Christ centered, experiential learning environment. Our children need strong Godly mentors like what I experienced.

Biblically we know that Christ called a small group of followers to be his disciples. The Strong’s Concordance tells us that the Greek word disciple translates to “a learner or pupil”. Each of us as Christians desire to learn more about God. As a modern day young person that can seem difficult and even intimidating. The Pathfinder experience continues to create an environment where Christ is part of everything we do.

The small group setting that the disciples experienced created a special bond between them. It also built a strong personal relationship with Jesus. As a Pathfinder I was able to build relationships with my unit members. I also built relationships with the adult staff, which continue to this day. Their commitment and reflection of Christ set a standard for me to work toward. They spent their time teaching skills that went well beyond just learning how to set up a tent or build a campfire. They put us in positions where we could develop leadership, self-discipline and how to solve problems. They taught us through friendship, word and example to trust in God.

This Sabbath we celebrate Pathfinder ministry. This year it is even more special because one of our Sligo Pathfinder’s is preaching. Victor Kindo has grown up in Sligo and is now a theology major at Washington Adventist University. His experience is an example of how the Pathfinder experience can impact a life. Victor was very shy and reserved when he first joined the club. Like all Pathfinders, he had opportunities to experiment, lead out and grow in a supportive environment. Today younger Pathfinders can be heard saying “I want to be like Victor” and I am sure that if you ask Victor he will tell you, “I want to be like Jesus”.

I, too, want to be more like Jesus. Being a Sligo Challenger Pathfinder has let me experience in a small way what the early church disciples experienced. It is being a part of an extended family of all ages who are committed to Christ. Maybe you know someone who would enjoy the Pathfinder experience?

Darrell Milam (Pathfinder Director, Sligo Church)
Pastoral Positions Filled At Sligo Church

Pastor for Media and Outreach Ministries
The Sligo Church Board on Monday evening, January 12, voted unanimously to invite Richard Castillo, Communications Director for the Oklahoma Conference, to serve as Media and Outreach pastor at Sligo Church. This position has been vacant since the departure of Pastor Paolo Esposito to Andrews Theological Seminary in June 2014.

Richard comes to Sligo with his wife, Kara and their two daughters, Makayla and Maya. He also comes with a passion for lost souls, a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 15 years of corporate and church media experience, proficiency in photography, videography, graphic design and website design.

Please join the Castillo family in praying for a smooth transition from Oklahoma to the DMV. Richard is expected to commence work at Sligo Church on March 1, 2015.

Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Pastor Charles Tapp, Sligo Church’s senior pastor, announced on Monday evening, January 12, that Joseph Khabbaz, currently serving as Associate Youth Director in the South Queensland Conference in Australia, with responsibility for Tertiary Students and Young Adults, has accepted a call to serve as Youth and Young Adult pastor at Sligo.

Joseph is an ordained minister, with extensive experience in mentoring and coaching young people, many of whom have been led to know Christ in a personal way as a result of his ministry. He obtained a Masters of Divinity degree from Andrews Theological Seminary in 2008. Prior to responding to God’s call to full time gospel ministry, Joseph worked as senior accountant, having qualified as a Chartered Accountant (CPA’s equivalent). Joseph is married to former Sligo member, Christina (Tina) Zaiback.

Joseph and Tina plan to arrive at Sligo in March 2015. Please pray that they too will have a smooth and uneventful transition.
Scott Lawrence

Takoma Park, MD (January 12, 2015) The results of a study on Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) demographics in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area were presented recently at the Adventist Community Action Council’s first meeting of the new year. The group is comprised of leaders of Adventist churches, organizations and community groups who coordinate their efforts and resources to address key community issues. Although the study was completed in 2009, the results were again presented to help new ACAC members better understand Adventist demographics and perspectives as they plan their activities for 2015.

Professor John Gavin, who is also the Director of the Center for Metropolitan Ministry, conducted the initial study six years ago, and compared data with previous studies from 1987 and 2004. The study included a telephone survey in mid-2008 of 379 randomly-selected Adventist families in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area.

“This information provides a clear profile of Adventists in the Baltimore-Washington Area, along with candid responses from members about Adventist Education that is vital for school leaders and educators who are members of the ACAC,” reports Gavin.

The study indicates that there were more than 22,000 Adventists living in the area in 2009. The highest concentration of local Adventist members, schools and churches at the time were concentrated in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties along the Route 29 and Interstate 95 corridors. Other notable clusters were located in the Baltimore area and the Frederick/Hagerstown areas, as well as Southern Prince George’s County.

The 2009 study showed that 60 percent of Adventists were non-Hispanic whites, while 18 percent were African American, 7 percent were Asian or Pacific Islander, 6 percent were Hispanic, and about 9 percent identified as multiracial or an ethnic group other than the choices provided.

In comparing the data with previous studies, the ethnic profile of the local Adventist membership is clearly changing. Between 1987 and 2009, the percentage of parents who are white dropped by half, while all other ethnic groups grew. The Asian and Hispanic segments increased five-fold, which is reflected in the continued growth of immigrant churches. Nearly half of the families reached – 44 percent — included at least one parent who is an immigrant to the United States.

Some notable results from the survey indicated that Adventist families are primarily middle-class, with 40 percent falling into the $50,000 to $99,000 income range; and 23 percent earning $100,000 or more annually. The Adventist families also tend to be more educated than the general population, with nearly 60 percent holding a college or graduate degree.

More than a third (36 percent) of Adventists fell into the “before Baby Boom” generation (ages 77-100), and 43 percent fell into the Baby Boomer generation (ages 45-63 at the time of the survey in 2009). Only 12 percent were Generation X (ages 33 to 44 in 2009), and only 4 percent were Millennials (ages 15-32 in 2009). Only 28 percent of those families surveyed had children at home.

The number of respondents who said they attended church weekly fell from a high of 86 percent in 1987 to 55 percent in 2009.

The study was commissioned by the ACAC and funded by Washington Adventist University, the Potomac, Chesapeake and Allegheny East Conferences, Takoma Academy, and Sligo School.
The Adventist Community Action Council includes representatives from Washington Adventist University, Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, Washington Adventist Hospital and Adventist Healthcare, the Columbia Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Potomac Conference Adventist Book Store, WGTS Radio, Takoma Academy, Sligo Adventist School, John Nevins Andrews School, George E. Peters School, Takoma Park Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The council routinely meets the second Friday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the Columbia Room of Washington Adventist University’s Wilkinson Hall. For more information about the organization, or to confirm that the location and time haven’t changed for a particular meeting, contact Erwin Mack at eandsmack@aol.com.

For copies of the Adventist demographic study, contact Professor John Gavin at jgavin@wau.edu.

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Washington Adventist University is Montgomery County’s only four-year private college. Part of the Seventh-day Adventist system of higher education, Washington Adventist University has been educating college students since 1904 on a 19-acre campus in suburban Takoma Park, close to the nation’s capital. A total of 1,080 students of all faiths participate in the university’s eight graduate and 32 undergraduate programs. The 2014 edition of U.S. News & World Report ranked Washington Adventist University among the best regional colleges in the north.

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The highlight of the day was a trip to visit the site of each school and to take a photo on the campus. With the help of Pastor Don McFarlane, the school tour enabled several card club members to see the learning institution as more than just a name on a list.

The year 2015 brings opportunities and challenges for all of us, and our teachers, administrators and students are not exempt. Thank you for praying for the 20 identified schools as the card club continues to connect with encouraging monthly messages.

(by Chris Daley and Dawn Reynolds)