

# AHSRA

adventist human-subject  
researchers association



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*Human Subjects Research Impact  
and Insights for Managers &  
Administrators*

**May 22 – 25, 2024**

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS







Dear 2024 Research Conference Attendee:

# Welcome!

I am pleased to welcome you to our 12th annual Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association (AHSRA) Conference which is being held at Andrews University in Michigan, USA. We are grateful to the University personnel for their graciousness and hard work in hosting this conference.

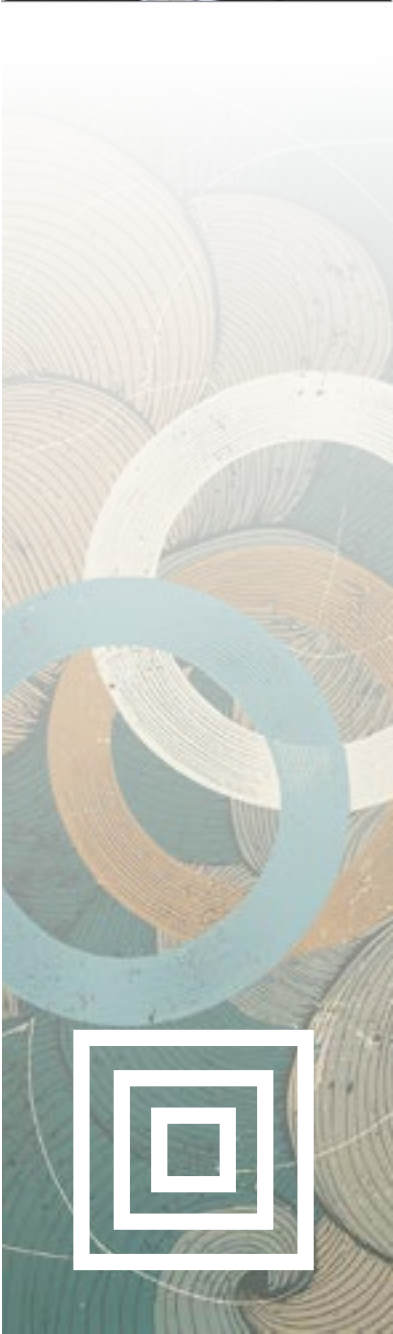
Our theme this year is the “Human subjects research impact and insights for managers & administrators.” We are pleased that WeiXing Shi (Loma Linda University), and Loren Hamel (Spectrum Heath Lakeland) are able to join us as our keynote speakers.

I want to thank our sponsors for the support that allows us to have high quality meetings at low costs for attendees. Our sponsors include the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics and Research, the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, and the Institute for the Prevention of Addictions.

The society is pleased to note is close association with AHSRA Asia, under the leadership of Arceli Rosario, and AHSRA Asia under the leadership of Daniel Ganu, who join AHSRA international in fostering the Adventist Human Studies research.

I further wish to give a very warm thanks to the support that I have been given by the officers of the association in the organization of this conference: Mordekai Ongo (Secretary), Rene Drum (Treasurer), Petr Činčala (Vice President AHSRA), Curtis Vanderwaal (Andrews University), Duane McBride (president emeritus), as well as members of the AHSRA council. Thank you also to Rene Drumm and Curt Vanderwaal for managing the challenging process of refereeing of paper proposals. I also would like to express warm thanks to the consistent support of the General Conference Office of Archives Statistics and Research, and the Archives Statistics and Research of the North American Division.

**Robert K. McIver, PhD**  
*President AHSRA*  
*Director Scripture, Spirituality and Society Research Centre,*  
*Avondale University.*





**On behalf of the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research** (ASTR), welcome to the 12th global conference of Adventist human-subject researchers.

This year the conference meets back at Andrews University, where it first met in November 2012. I look back on that first conference, organized by ASTR, with affection and nostalgia. Out of it grew the Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association (AHSRA), which has organized the conference for the last ten years, and which now has Asian and African chapters, each of which will be hosting their own conferences later this year.

We in ASTR are delighted to see AHSRA grow and thrive, and are also delighted to sponsor this year's conference, as we have every global conference.

We hope that each person attending is stimulated by the conference presentations, and excited by the opportunity to meet and engage with like-minded researchers.

Warm wishes,

**David Trim, PhD, FRHistS**  
*Director*  
*General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research*



Dear conference participants,

**The Andrews University Office of Research and Creative Scholarship** is pleased to host the seventh annual **Andrews Research Conference: Early Career Researchers in the Social Sciences**, held this year in coordination with the **Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association (AHSRA)** conference.

The purpose of the **Andrews Research Conference (ARC)** is to network young Adventist researchers, building relationships and partnerships that will enhance the professional careers of the participants while providing a place for them to share their research and creativity in the context of faith. Our focus this year includes anthropology, archaeology, community & international development, economics, political science, psychology, social work, sociology, and related disciplines.

The **Andrews Research Conference** and the **Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association** conference are collaborating this year to bring together a dynamic synergy between generations of researchers. Whether you are registered for the ARC or the AHSRA conference, you are welcome to attend all of the sessions from both conferences. We encourage you to take advantage of the times provided to dialogue with each other and get to know the presenters and expand your professional network.

Please visit us at <http://www.andrews.edu/research> to learn more about research and academic conferences at Andrews University.

Sincerely,

**Gary W. Burdick, PhD**  
*Dean of Research*



[andrews.edu/research](http://andrews.edu/research)







## Andrews University

Dear Members and Attendees of the joint Andrews Research Conference & Adventist Human-Subject Researchers Association Conference,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the joint 2024 Andrews Research Conference (ARC) and Adventist Human-Subjects Researchers Association (AHSRA) conference. We are delighted that you have joined us for this significant event here at Andrews University as we embark on an enriching journey of discovery and collaboration.

This joint conference serves as a vibrant platform for early-career and experienced Adventist researchers to come together, share their groundbreaking research, and foster meaningful connections within the academic community. Your participation enriches the diverse tapestry of perspectives and expertise that define this gathering. We value collaboration and invite you to actively engage, contributing to this dynamic exchange of ideas and insights founded on the Biblical worldview.

The work of ARC and AHSRA is important to our University as we understand good research to be vital to the growth of understanding and relevance in both our religious and academic institutions. This year, the ARC conference focuses on the social sciences and the AHSRA conference focuses on broad issues in human subject research. This focus will highlight the work of researchers that can lead to a deeper understanding of the critical social, public health, and missiological issues facing humanity and our Church.

There is nothing more relevant in today's environment than the intersection between the community, health, and the gospel. This intersection also reflects the roots of the Seventh-day Adventist church, with its strong early message linking the healing ministry of Christ with our desire to encourage healthy communities through health reform. This continues to be a strong focus of Andrews University.

Together, let us explore the frontiers of knowledge, inspire deeper commitment to the ethical principles of Scripture, and forge lasting connections that propel our collective pursuit of excellence in research and scholarship.

**John Wesley Taylor V, PhD**  
*President, Andrews University*



## MICHAEL W. CAMPBELL

Michael W. Campbell, PhD, is director of the North American Division department of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

He is ordained minister who previously spent a decade in higher education in the Philippines and Texas.

He is the co-editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Seventh-day Adventism* and just finished a textbook on Adventist history co-authored with Ed Allen under contract with Eerdmans for release in early 2025.

He recently organized a conference on Women in Adventist History as the first of a series of annual NAD research conferences. He has contributed numerous popular and peer-reviewed articles, plus twelve books including *We Stand on Their Shoulders* (Pacific Press, 2023) and *1922: The Rise of Adventist Fundamentalism* (Pacific Press, 2022).

He contributes regularly to the "Adventist Pilgrimage" podcast and enjoys bird watching, racquetball, and Pathfinders. He and his family were responsible for creating the "Snowshoeing" and "Women in Adventist History" Pathfinder honors.

# Devotional Speaker

# Keynote Speaker



## LOREN B. HAMEL

*President, Corewell Health™  
in Southwest Michigan*

Loren B. Hamel, MD, MHA, is president of Corewell Health™ in Southwest Michigan. Loren leads care delivery for three hospitals, over 60 outpatient locations, telehealth initiatives, and approximately 500 independent, affiliated and employed physicians in Southwest Michigan. In both his current roles, Loren demonstrates a passion for strategy, respect for data, dedication to reducing health disparities and achieving health equity, and commitment to developing a culture of love and respect throughout the organization.

Before the integration of Lakeland Health and Spectrum Health in 2018, Loren served as chief executive officer of Lakeland Health since 2009 and held various other executive roles with the organization. As CEO of Lakeland Health, Loren championed many successful integrations. Through his “Bring Your Heart to Work” initiative, featured in Harvard Business Review, he shared his vision for connecting caregivers’ tasks to the heartfelt needs of those they serve. An experienced family physician, Loren practiced medicine for 23 years at University Medical Specialties in Berrien Springs, Michigan. In addition, he has served Andrews University in a number of roles, including clinical professor, director of the university’s health services, president of the alumni association, and board member.

Loren graduated with honors from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in Loma Linda, California. He also holds a Master in Health Services Administration from University of Michigan School of Public Health.

# Keynote Speaker



## WEI-XING SHI

*Professor, Depts of Pharmaceutical,  
Administrative, and Basic Sciences  
LLU Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine*

Wei-Xing Shi earned his PhD from the School of Medicine at Yale University. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, Wei-Xing Shi returned to Yale, serving as an Assistant Professor and later as an Associate Professor.

In 2007, Wei-Xing Shi joined Loma Linda University, where he has since held the position of Full Professor in both the Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine.

Wei-Xing Shi’s research primarily focuses on the neurobiology and pharmacology of brain disorders, with a particular emphasis on those related to the central dopamine system. His research has been supported by grants from various federal and private agencies.

He is a recipient of the NARSAD Young Investigator Award (two-time), the NARSAD Independent Investigator Award, the NIMH FIRST Award, and the Scottish Rite Schizophrenia Research Award.



# Conference Schedule

**Zoom Link:** <https://andrews.zoom.us/j/5762967164?omn=91785740075>



## Wednesday, May 22, 2024

**Zoom Link:** <https://andrews.zoom.us/j/5762967164?omn=98137796342>



TIME	EVENT	TITLE/LOCATION	PRESENTER
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	AHSRA Council Meeting	Buller Hall 215	Rob McIver
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Registration	Buller Hall Entry Level Lobby	AU Research Office
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Welcome	Buller Hall	Chair: Gary Burdick
	ARC Presentations	Social aspects in articles from the Review and Herald magazine written by Adventist missionaries in Mexico from 1891 to 1914	Presenter: Benjamin Garcia
		Budget Deficit and Bank’s Dividend: A Case Study of Ghana Commercial Bank Plc	Presenter: Boachie Danquah
		Femicide Orphanhood, the Invisible Victims: Sensitization towards Vulnerable Childhoods Affected by the Crime of Femicide in Mexico, through the Photovoice Methodology, from an Academic Approach.	Presenters: Ana Elisa Mena Martínez MhD , Marcos Enrique Flores González PhD, Hallan Enrique Hernández MhD, Evelyn Raquel Hernández Morales MhD, Yara Lizeth Vázquez Hernández, Valeria Rodríguez Domínguez
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Opening Address	Buller Hall Newbold Auditorium	President Taylor
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Welcome Banquet	Buller Hall - Second Floor Behavioral Science Lab	

## Thursday, May 23, 2024

Registration and breakfast snacks: Behavioral Sciences Research Center (Buller Hall second floor)

TIME	EVENT; TITLE/LOCATION	PRESENTER
8:15 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements Buller Hall	Curt VanderWaal
8:30 – 8:50 a.m.	Devotional	Michael Campbell
9:00 –9:45 a.m.	<b>KEYNOTE</b> <i>The Data We Need</i>	<b>Loren Hamel</b>
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Mission and Outreach</b>	Session Host, René Drumm
	The Total Member Involvement Initiative Across Church Types	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
	Determinants of tithing behavior among Seventh-day Adventists in Indonesia	Ruhupatty, LeRoy Tim; Kijai, Jimmy
	The Role of Social Media in Advancing the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
11:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Social Dynamics and Mental Health</b>	Session Host, Duane McBride
	Moderated Mediation Study on the Factors affecting Mental Health Care Seeking Among University Students in Kenya	Odhiambo, Janet Nyaboke
	The Association of Depression, Suicidal Ideation, and Spiritual Beliefs: A comparison of the Chinese Union Mission and the North American Division	Cincala, Petr; Drumm, René; Son, Injae
	Factors Affecting Adherence To Antiretroviral Therapy Among People Living With HIV/AIDS In Antigua And Barbuda	Rowe-Harris, Yuliecia Antoinette; Calbayan, Chirlynor Eborá; Pondi, Kepha Odiwuor
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	<b>Group Photo &amp; Lunch AU Cafeteria</b>	



1:00 –2:00 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Church Organizational Challenges</b>	Session Host, Curt VanderWaal
	“I felt I wasn’t seen”: How Lack of Ordination Hurts Female Pastors in the North American Division	Drumm, René D.; Cincala, Petr; Hargrove, Tara; Crumley, Linda
	Disseminating Intimate Partner Violence prevention and intervention work in the church: What we’ve done and what’s still needed	Ponce-Rodas, Melissa; Drumm, René
	“God’s church is not an organization”: Ex-Adventists—Who They Are and Why they Left	Drumm, René D.; Arcaro, Tom; McClearn, Duane; Wright, Jeff
<b>2:00 – 2:10 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
2:10 – 3:10 p.m.	Paper presentations	Session Host, Petr Činčala
	Teachers’ Accountability for Student-centered Learning in Adventist Secondary Schools in West Kenya Union Conference: Toward Better Learning Outcomes	Role, Elizabeth M.
	Using Interdisciplinary Trauma-Informed Approaches to Modify University Courses and Departments: First Year Findings and Program Revisions	Young, Dustin; Joseph, Jenica; Garcia, Charity; Slikkers, Ingrid; VanderWaal, Curt
	Humanizing data for student success	Upalla, Padma P. Tadi; Herinirina, Yasmina; Uppala, Guru
<b>3:10 – 3:20 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
3:20 – 4:20 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Cultural and Generational Perspectives</b>	Session Host, Shannon Trecartin
	Ability & Willingness of Adventist churches to communicate and welcome people from different cultural backgrounds: A comparison of early and late joiners	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
	Generational Differences in Altruistic Concern among Seventh-day Adventists in different majority religious contexts: a cross-regional analysis of the context of theodicy	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
	Exploring the intersection of faith and culture: The influence of a Country’s majority religion on Adventists’ attitudes	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
4:20–5:20 p.m.	Business Meeting  ASTAR Presentation	  Safary Wa-Mbaleka
5:20–6:15 p.m.	<b>Dinner</b> <i>(Note: cafe closes at 6:15)</i>	

**Zoom Link:** <https://andrews.zoom.us/j/5762967164?omn=95435323155>



Friday, May 24, 2024

TIME	EVENT/ TITLE/LOCATION	PRESENTER
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Welcome	Petr Činčala
8:30–9 a.m.	Devotional	Alina Baltazar
9:15–10 a.m.	<b>KEYNOTE</b>	<b>Wei-Xing Shi</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Community Engagement and Preparedness</b>	Session Host, Petr Činčala
	Impact and Insights Gained from Emergency Preparedness IPE Simulation	Bradley, Gary; Laughlin, Faith; Christman, Ronda; Racavita, Laura
	Reducing healthcare utilization among patients with chronic medical conditions by addressing social determinants of health	VanderWaal Curt J.; Trecartin, Shannon M.; Williams, Morgan
	Assessment of the demand for Kenya Occupational Therapy Upgrade	Kereri, Dovison
11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	<b>Brief Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium)	Session Host, Curt VanderWaal
	Navigating contours of change: translocated Kenyans	Ngetich, Sammy
	Generational differences in the understanding and acceptance of Ellen G. White’s prophetic role and writings among SDA church members	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
	Potholes on the Road to Our Data Making a Difference: The pushback from the ruling class, the public, competitors, and a citizen arrest	McBride, Duane
	Factors influencing image branding	Kephia, Abel
	Comparative Analysis of Ministry Participation Among Dormant, Stable, and Popular Seventh-day Adventist Churches: A Focus on Weekly Involvement	Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli
12:15–1:15 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> AU Cafeteria	

1:15–2:15 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> <b>Theme: Relationship Dynamics</b> (Newbold Auditorium)	Session Host, Karl Bailey
	Factors Associated with the High Rates of Divorce Among Sub-Sahara African Immigrants in the United States	Anjejo, Dixon; Ngetich, Sammy; Cadet, Jean
	Exploring the main and interaction effects of disability and belonging on depression among a global sample of Seventh-day Adventists	Trecartin, Shannon; Bailey, Karl G. D.; Baltazar, Alina ; McBride, Duane C.
	Lived experiences of pastors	McIver, Robert K.
<b>2:15–2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Religious Tensions and Community Engagement</b>	Session Host, Rob McIver
	Predictors of Spiritual Struggle: Exploring the Role of Trauma Exposure, Resilience, and Religious Behaviors among Religiously Affiliated University Students	Burnett, Harvey J.; McBride, Duane
	Coexistence of Contradictory Beliefs About the Human Person Among Adventist Church Members	Bailey, Karl G. D.; McBride, Duane; Trecartin, Shannon
	An Ethnography of Permaculture in Southwest Michigan	Burke, Lily
<b>3:30 – 3:45</b>	<b>Break</b>	
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.	<b>Oral Presentations</b> (Newbold Auditorium) <b>Theme: Health and Wellness</b>	Session Host, Duane McBride
	Religiosity’s Impact on Health Risk Behaviors in Seventh-day Adventist Young Adults	Baltazar, Alina
	Wholistic health message through evidence-based Full Plate Living weight loss program Case series (In person)	Upalla, Padma P. Tadi; Isaak, Sherri; Uppala, Michael
	Developing an operation model for mission trips on health and evangelism in developing countries - The Salama Health Project-Tanzania case study	Katuli, Sozina D.; De Leone, Gerson; Nyika, Ruth j.
5:00–7:30 p.m.	<b>Picnic Beach Vespers</b>	Presenter: Karl Bailey

**Zoom Link:** <https://andrews.zoom.us/j/5762967164?omn=99977250871>



## Saturday, May 25, 2024

Livestream Link

9:00 - 10:00 Breakfast snack: Behavioral Sciences Research Center (Buller Hall second floor)

TIME	EVENT
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions Buller Hall Rm 108
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Duane McBride
<b>10:45 – 11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Rob McIver Buller Hall Rm 108 “Who is in, who is out?”
12:30 –1:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b> AU Cafeteria
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Pizza</b>







# Paper Presentation Abstracts

## ARC PRESENTATIONS

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Social aspects in articles from the Review and Herald magazine written by Adventist missionaries in Mexico from 1891 to 1914”**

*Garcia, Benjamin; Camacho, Alexis; Garcia, Kennet; Zavala, Eliseo*

**ABSTRACT:** The Seventh-day Adventist Church had its beginnings in Mexico in the late 19th century with the arrival of a small interdisciplinary group of missionaries. Some of these missionaries sent reports that were disseminated in various church publications, especially in The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald magazine (abbreviated Review & Herald, now Adventist Review), which is the church’s official organ. In these articles, the missionaries, among whom George Caviness stands out, reported on the progress of the church’s development in the country and described the social situation and some aspects of Mexico’s history and politics. Additionally, they recounted experiences that shed light on the personal and familial lives of the missionaries.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Budget Deficit and Bank’s Dividend: A Case Study of Ghana Commercial Bank Plc.”**

*Danquah, Boachie*

**ABSTRACT:** The paper estimates the impact of the budget deficit on the dividend of Ghana Commercial Bank. The study makes use of the Autoregressive Distributed Lag model (ARDL) on time series Data, for the period 2000--2020. The data set on dividend, budget deficit, profitability, interest rate, and inflation rate were tested for stationary using ADF and PP tests and established stationarity at levels and first difference for the variables. ARDL test results revealed that in the long run, budget deficit and profitability have a positive relationship with the bank’s dividend with

a significant influence which conforms with the crowding out arguments. The short-run period shows a positively insignificant relationship between profitability and dividends. There is also a unidirectional causality between budget deficit and dividends. The possible reason for the result could be due to the government’s persistent borrowing which increases the deficit hence a positive relationship between the budget deficit and dividend of Ghana Commercial Bank. The study recommends that even though a high deficit impacts positively on dividends, the government should adopt fiscal policies that can reduce the deficit since its impacts on other economic variables are detrimental.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Femicide Orphanhood, the Invisible Victims: Sensitization towards Vulnerable Childhoods Affected by the Crime of Femicide in Mexico, through the Photovoice Methodology, from an Academic Approach.”**

*Ana Elisa Mena Martínez MhD , Marcos Enrique Flores González PhD , Hallan Enrique Hernández MhD , Evelyn Raquel Hernández Morales MhD , Yara Lizeth Vázquez Hernández , Valeria Rodríguez Domínguez*

**ABSTRACT:** This study focuses on raising awareness about the stark social reality faced by orphans due to femicide in Mexico, employing the participatory methodology of photovoice in collaboration with the Civil Association “Futuro con Derechos.” From a qualitative methodological perspective with a conception of an experiential epistemic approach, anchored in socio-critical and pragmatist investigative paradigms, it is framed within social constructionism to understand and interpret the poignant meanings attributed to the harrowing realities of children in situations of extreme vulnerability. The photovoice methodological design has empowered the participants to eloquently express their poignant experiences through evocative photography, granting them voice and agency in the heartrending narrative of their dire circumstances.

Furthermore, these subjects, first-year students of the Communication and Media career, documented their experiences with the social phenomenon in order to raise awareness through photographs, intricately weaved socially conscious narratives in collaboration with multidisciplinary collaborators. The analysis is meticulously executed using the GLATER model and with adept technological support in Atlas Ti version 24. Preliminarily, it becomes evident how entrenched sociocultural structures and deeply ingrained gender norms perpetuate egregious violence and grievous neglect towards these marginalized orphans. This underscores the urgent need for a nuanced understanding of the profound harm inflicted by femicide upon these vulnerable childhoods, compelling advocates to demand a more inclusive and compassionate response to their myriad needs, particularly in the state of Nuevo León, Mexico.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “The Impact of Bicycle Mission World on the Korean SDA Community in Berrien Springs, Michigan”**

*Soojung, Jo*

**ABSTRACT:** This qualitative study explores the influence of Bicycle Mission World (BMW), a faith-based non-profit organization located in Berrien Springs, Michigan, on the local Korean Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) community. Despite its international focus on missionary work in Africa, BMW’s presence in Berrien Springs, home to Andrews University, the largest SDA university, has the potential to impact the local community. The study investigates this impact by conducting semi-structured interviews with young adults who participated in BMW-organized short-term mission trips to Kenya. The research aims to understand how a faith-based service organization can influence not only the beneficiary regions but also the local community where its headquarters are located. The analysis of interview content revealed themes such as personal and spiritual growth, expansion of cultural horizons, and increased awareness of BMW within the local community. The findings suggest that international organizations should consider their positive impact on both the beneficiary regions and their headquarters’ local communities, as providing direct experiences utilizing the organization’s local infrastructure can positively impact participants, local communities, and the organization itself. The study concludes that faith-based non-profit organizations have the potential to exert a significant influence on both

the regions they serve and the communities where their headquarters are located, contributing to a better understanding of the role and influence of these organizations on their local communities.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Transformative Learning in the Higher Education Online Classroom: Perspectives and Practices.”**

*Ranjith, Kingston Gladstone Dr.*

**ABSTRACT:** Transformative learning involves changing a learner’s perception by challenging existing mental patterns (Halupa, 2017; Mezirow, 1997). In this study, transformative learning refers to teachers consciously altering students’ perceptions of the Adventist worldview in various domains through curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The focus is on transformative learning in online education due to its growing popularity in higher education. The Adventist education seeks to transform learners’ lives and restore God’s image. While the Holy Spirit drives the transformation, Adventist schools create a supportive learning environment by integrating faith and learning strategies. This qualitative case study aims to identify evidence of transformation in online classes at a selected Adventist higher education institution. Instructors’ and students’ perspectives are examined to provide insightful and relevant findings and practices for online transformative learning. Approaches to transformative learning are grouped utilizing a model presented by Kingston (2024) and adapted here for online contexts. Recommendations for working with online administrators, professors are also provided.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Covid-19 Pandemic Impact on Capital Structure: Evidence From Manufacturing Firms in Indonesia.”**

*Pangemanan, Antony; Williams, Kwasi Peprah*

**ABSTRACT:** This study examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the capital structures of manufacturing firms in Indonesia, focusing on the Long-Term Debt to Equity Ratio. Utilizing a quantitative methodology, this research analyzes the Long-Term Debt to Equity Ratio of companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) from 2017 to 2022 through a repeated measures ANOVA. The analysis aims to determine whether there are significant differences in the Long-Term Debt to

Equity Ratio pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 periods. Results indicated that while there is an observable increase in Long Term Debt to Equity Ratio during the pandemic, these changes were not statistically significant, suggesting that firms maintained a consistent approach to their capital structure despite the economic disruptions caused by the pandemic. This study contributes to understanding how external macroeconomic shocks like COVID-19 affect corporate financial strategies, providing insights for policymakers and corporate managers to support resilient financial planning in times of crisis.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Examining Financial Analysis Indicators: Insights from CFOs in Religious Organizations”**  
*Rafaliniony, Herimamy; Williams, Kwasi Peprah*

**ABSTRACT:** This study examines the application and significance of financial analysis indicators within religious organizations through the perspectives of Chief Financial Officers (CFOs). Utilizing a qualitative research design, interviews were conducted with six CFOs of the Seventh-day Adventist Conferences in Madagascar, focusing on how these professionals perceive and implement financial analysis in their managerial practices. The research highlights the essential role that financial analysis plays in aligning organizational strategies with financial realities, ensuring sustainability, and fostering informed decision-making. It discusses the strategic integration of financial analysis into daily management practices, demonstrating how they help CFOs navigate the complexities of financial stewardship within religious contexts. Findings indicate that financial analysis is crucial for evaluating performance, managing resources effectively, and maintaining transparency and accountability, all of which are vital for securing trust and compliance within religious non-profit environments. The study enriches the literature on financial management in non-profits by detailing the specific uses and benefits of financial analysis in the unique context of religious organizations, providing insights that could enhance organizational practices and stakeholder engagement.

# THEME: MISSION AND OUTREACH

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “The Total Member Involvement Initiative Across Church Types”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This study investigates participation in the Total Member Involvement initiative across different Seventh-day Adventist church types. Findings reveal higher participation in dormant churches compared to stable or popular ones. The results highlight the influence of church type on member involvement, with potential implications for planning church initiatives.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Determinants of tithing behavior among Seventh-day Adventists in Indonesia”**  
*Ruhupatty, LeRoy Tim; Kijai, Jimmy*

**ABSTRACT:** We investigated the tithing behavior of Adventists in Indonesia. Conveniently selected church pastors were asked to distribute an online tithing behavior questionnaire to their congregations. We received 355 complete responses. Tithing intention strongly influenced tithing behavior and that religiously committed Adventists are more likely to tithe.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “The Role of Social Media in Advancing the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This study investigates the role of social media in advancing the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It explores the impact of various aspects of social media use, including religious engagement, positive and negative experiences, and general usage, on the frequency of witnessing to non-Adventists in the community.  
THEME: SOCIAL DYNAMICS AND MENTAL HEALTH

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Moderated Mediation Study on the Factors affecting Mental Health Care Seeking Among University Students in Kenya”**  
*Odhiambo, Janet Nyaboke*

**ABSTRACT:** Mental health issues have become global public health concerns in recent time. Yet, in Kenya five out of six people who suffer from mental health issues do not seek help. This paper sort to uncover the moderating effect of demographic profile (Age, gender, & family structures) and the mediating effect of intention to seek help between the determinants of mental health and help seeking behavior among university students. This study used a quantitative methodology employing a Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) design. Six hundred and sixteen respondents from eight universities each representing the eight regions in Kenya participated in the study. Multi-stage sampling was used to select regions, universities, and clusters of students. The study was anchored in the Theory of Planned Behavior and the Social Ecological Model. The findings suggested that intention to seek help fully mediated the relationship between socio-cognitive factors and mental health care seeking sources. Moreover, intention partially mediated healthcare infrastructure and mental health care seeking sources. The results also showed that sex and family structures played a moderating role in the relationship among the independent and dependent variables. Finally, a new model that emerged was proposed as a resource for developing public health education programs that may be used for intervention purposes.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “The Association of Depression, Suicidal Ideation, and Spiritual Beliefs: A comparison of the Chinese Union Mission and the North American Division”**  
*Cincala, Petr; Drumm, René; Son, Injae*

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation highlights two cohorts of the Global Church Members Survey participants: the Chinese Union Mission and the North American Division regarding anxiety, depression, and spiritual beliefs. CHUM respondents (47%) reported higher levels of feeling down, depressed, or hopeless compared to NAD’s 24%. Similar patterns were observed in suicidal thoughts, attempts, and self-harm. The connection between anxiety, depression, and spiritual beliefs reveals that CHUM respondents who experienced a loss of spiritual meaning or shaken faith reported

increased rates of negative feelings. Recognizing these disparities is crucial for church leaders to provide tailored mental health care, emphasizing the impact of cultural context and spiritual practices on participants’ well-being.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Developing an operation model for mission trips on health and evangelism in developing countries - The Salama Health Project-Tanzania case study”**  
*Katuli, Sozina D.; De Leone Dr., Gerson; Nyika, Ruth j.*

**ABSTRACT:** Developing an operation model for mission trips on health and evangelism in developing countries - The Salama Health Project-Tanzania case study.  
THEME: CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL CHALLENGES

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “I felt I wasn’t seen”: How Lack of Ordination Hurts Female Pastors in the North American Division**  
*Drumm, René D.; Cincala, Petr ; Hargrove, Tara; Crumley, Linda*

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation offers insights into the experiences of female pastors regarding ordination into ministry. In-depth interview data with 21 female pastors in the North American Division reveals key differences between commissioning and ordination. These include patterns of harm such as being considered inferior pastors, feeling invisible to Church administrators, and sensing ongoing confusion about roles. This study is important in clarifying the issues of women’s ordination from the perspective of those most affected by Church policies.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Disseminating Intimate Partner Violence prevention and intervention work in the church: What we’ve done and what’s still needed”**  
*Ponce-Rodas, Melissa; Drumm, René*

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation shares data from four studies of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the Adventist Church. The findings reveal patterns of abuse on par with national rates pointing to the need for widespread intervention. Presenters will discuss the history of awareness raising, preventive efforts and intervention programs for DV in the SDA church, as well as directions for future dissemination and long-term sustainability.



**TITLE/AUTHOR: “God’s church is not an organization”: Ex-Adventists—Who They Are and Why they Left**  
*Drumm, René D.; Arcaro, Tom; McClearn, Duane; Wright, Jeff*

**ABSTRACT:** This presentation shares findings from a study of ex-Adventists and highlights their characteristics and reasons for leaving the Seventh-day Adventist church. The study contains responses from over 1000 ex-Adventists about their experiences in and out of the church and offers insights about their reasons for leaving.

THEME: EDUCATION AND LEARNING

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Teachers’ Accountability for Student-centered Learning in Adventist Secondary Schools in West Kenya Union Conference: Toward Better Learning Outcomes”**  
*Role, Elizabeth M.*

**ABSTRACT:** This study probes the association of teachers’ accountability for designing a student-centered curriculum with student’s academic achievement in the Adventist secondary schools in the western Kenya region. It was found that teachers in high-performing schools are more accountable for student-centered learning implying that accountability results in better learning outcomes.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Using Interdisciplinary Trauma-Informed Approaches to Modify University Courses and Departments: First Year Findings and Program Revisions”**  
*Young, Dustin*

**ABSTRACT:** Five interprofessional programs at Andrews University collaborated in the development of a campus-wide initiative to infuse trauma-informed approaches (Palmer, 2020) into undergraduate courses. The Attitudes Related to Trauma-Informed Care Scale 45 (ARTIC-45) was used to measure longitudinal faculty outcomes in this two-and-a-half-year, mixed-methods study. Initial findings, needed adjustments, and campus-wide responses will be presented from the first year of this study.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Humanizing data for student success”**  
*Upalla, Padma P. Tadi; Herinirina, Yasmina; Uppala, Guru*

**ABSTRACT:** Andrews University uses data-driven decision-making and student-centered initiatives funded by Title III grant to enhance success for at-risk and minority students. The goals include: improving enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. This is accomplished by a centralized technological system powered by Anthology that tracks students progress through a suite of tools: Beacon, Engage, Occupation Insight, and Rubrics.

THEME: CULTURAL AND GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Ability & Willingness of Adventist churches to communicate and welcome people from different cultural backgrounds: A comparison of early and late joiners”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This paper examines how the age at joining the Adventist Church affects the ability and willingness of Adventists to communicate and welcome people from different cultural backgrounds. Using a survey of Adventist members, it finds that late joiners score significantly higher than early joiners on both dimensions. It discusses the implications of these findings for the Adventist Church’s policies and practices on cultural diversity.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Generational Differences in Altruistic Concern among Seventh-day Adventists in different majority religious contexts: a cross-regional analysis of the context of theodicy”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This study explores altruism among Seventh-day Adventists across diverse religious contexts and generations, examining how their faith influences charity. It uncovers variations in altruistic concerns, illuminates the interplay

between religious worldviews and altruism, and advances understanding of theodicy’s role in shaping altruism.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Exploring the intersection of faith and culture: The influence of a Country’s majority religion on Adventists’ attitudes”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This study explores the intersection of faith and culture among Adventists, examining how the majority religion in a country influences this intersection. Significant differences were found among Adventists in Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist-majority countries. The findings provide insights for tailoring religious education and fostering interfaith dialogue.

THEME: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Impact and Insights Gained from Emergency Preparedness IPE Simulation”**  
*Bradley, Gary; Laughlin, Faith; Christman, Ronda; Racavita, Laura*

**ABSTRACT:** Natural disasters and man-made disasters are increasing in frequency and severity, it is imperative that our next generation educators are prepared to implement and make an impact on their students and add insights for faculty. Hear what Southern Adventist University has done to prepare the next generation of learners!

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Reducing healthcare utilization among patients with chronic medical conditions by addressing social determinants of health”**  
*VanderWaal Curt J.; Trecartin, Shannon M.; Williams, Morgan*

**ABSTRACT:** Addressing social determinants of health is critical to preventing and treating acute and chronic illnesses. The Community of Care program connected patients with services following discharge from a healthcare facility to ensure consistent and uninterrupted care. Patient outcomes showed significant reductions in ER

visits, Inpatient stays, and total costs.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Assessment of the demand for Kenya Occupational Therapy Upgrade”**  
*Kereri, Dovison*

**ABSTRACT:** This study was conducted to assess the needs, demand and uptake of the OT upgrade programs in Kenya. Quantitative exploratory design was utilized targeting Practising OTs with diploma (Group 1) and OTs who have either graduated or enrolled in an upgrade degree program (Group 2). The study revealed a significant difference between the G1 and G2 groups t (23) = -2.769, p = .008 at p < .05 in the knowledge and competency levels. The greatest demand for upgrade programs was in the 21 to 30 years’ age group at 52% (G1, n=78).

BRIEF ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Navigating contours of change: translocated Kenyans”**  
*Ngetich, Sammy*

**ABSTRACT:** As global migration trends continue, the lingering question is, ‘what happens to individuals who have developed in one cultural context when they re-establish their lives in another one?’ Data shows that one’s transitional trajectory and adaptation outcome depends on the social and personal factors in their society of origin, the society of settlement, and phenomena that exist prior and during the process of acculturation.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Generational differences in the understanding and acceptance of Ellen G. White’s prophetic role and writings among SDA church members”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This study investigates generational differences among Seventh-day Adventist Church members in their acceptance of Ellen G. White as a prophet and their understanding of her writings. Findings reveal significant variations across pre-millennials, millennials, and post-millennials, offering insights into evolving perceptions of religious figures within the church community.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Potholes on the Road to Our Data Making a Difference: The pushback from the ruling class, the public, competitors, and a citizen arrest”**  
*McBride, Duane*

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Factors influencing image branding”**  
*Kephia, Abel*

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Comparative Analysis of Ministry Participation Among Dormant, Stable, and Popular Seventh-day Adventist Churches: A Focus on Weekly Involvement”**  
*Opao, Ray; Adil, Jimiah Jr.; Aguillon, Carthy Joy; Opao, Susa; Rosario, Arceli*

**ABSTRACT:** This study examines ministry participation in Seventh-day Adventist churches, categorized as dormant, stable, and popular. While Sabbath ministry involvement showed no significant difference across church types, weekly ministry involvement was significantly higher in popular churches, highlighting the impact of church attendance patterns on member engagement in ministry activities.

THEME: RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS

**TITLE/AUTHOR: Factors Associated with the High Rates of Divorce Among Sub-Sahara African Immigrants in the United States**  
*Anjejo, Dixon; Ngetich, Sammy; Cadet, Jean*

**ABSTRACT:** When migrants relocate to a new environment or culture, they encounter changes in beliefs, practices, and interactions, which may impact their lives, occupations, status, and family structure. This research aimed to examine factors associated with the high divorce rates among Sub-Saharan African immigrants in the United States (U.S.).

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Exploring the main and interaction effects of disability and belonging on depression among a global sample of Seventh-day Adventists”**  
*Trecartin, Shannon; Bailey, Karl G. D.; Baltazar, Alina ; McBride, Duane C.*

**ABSTRACT:** The present study examines the main and interaction effects of disability and belonging in a religious setting on depression among a global sample of Seventh-day Adventists. Implications for church leaders and mental health professionals are provided.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Lived experiences of pastors”**  
*McIver, Robert K.*

**ABSTRACT:** This paper is a preliminary report on the lived experience of pastors in local Seventh-day Adventist Churches as it is revealed in their responses to the Global Adventist Pastors’ Survey. It explores s Some of the differences in the way pastors experience their work in the different Divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are explored.

THEME: RELIGIOUS TENSIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Predictors of Spiritual Struggle: Exploring the Role of Trauma Exposure, Resilience, and Religious Behaviors among Religiously Affiliated University Students”**  
*Burnett, Harvey J.; McBride, Duane*

**ABSTRACT:** This study examined how exposure to traumatic experiences, protective factors such as Psychological Body Armor(TM) (PBA), physical wellness behaviors, and religious practices predict spiritual struggle among students attending a religiously affiliated university. Preliminary findings revealed that PBA, non-class assigned Bible and Christian literature readings were predictive of reduced spiritual struggle.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Coexistence of Contradictory Beliefs About the Human Person Among Adventist Church Members”**  
*Bailey, Karl G. D.; McBride, Duane; Trecartin, Shannon*

**ABSTRACT:** The Adventist belief that the dead have no consciousness or afterlife until

the Resurrection is often taught in the context of intuitive but contradictory folk beliefs that emphasize a separate soul. We demonstrate that Adventist doctrine and intuitive contradictory beliefs co-exist in a notable minority of global Adventist church members.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “An Ethnography of Permaculture in Southwest Michigan”**  
*Burke, Lily*

**ABSTRACT:** Permaculture is a holistic design system for sustainably meeting human needs. My project questions what it means to practice permaculture in southwest Michigan, and how ideological commitments can translate into action. Ethnographically investigating these questions through semi-structured interviews and participant observation, my study adds to an understanding of permaculture.

THEME: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Religiosity’s Impact on Health Risk Behaviors in Seventh-day Adventist Young Adults”**  
*Baltazar, Alina*

**ABSTRACT:** This study identifies risk and protective factors associated with youth health risk behaviors and mental health among Seventh-day Adventist college students. A survey conducted at an SDA university found that resilience, religiosity, and open communication with parents were protective. Loneliness, spiritual abuse/struggle, and trauma were risk factors.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: “Wholistic health message through evidence based Full Plate Living weight loss program Case series”**  
*Upalla, Padma P. Tadi; Isaak, Sherri; Uppala, Michael*

**ABSTRACT:** Adventist health message is emphasized at the Andrews University Lifestyle Medicine Clinic and Training Center. Subjects who adhered to the Full Plate Living weight loss program in the first pilot study showed significant improvements in weight, Body Mass Index, body fat, waist circumference, total cholesterol, and risk for cardiovascular events.

**TITLE/AUTHOR: Factors Affecting Adherence To Antiretroviral Therapy Among People Living With HIV/AIDS In Antigua And Barbuda”**  
*Rowe-Harris, Yuliecia Antoinette; Calbayan, Chirlynor Ehora; Pondi, Kepha Odiwuor*

**ABSTRACT:** This study examined factors affecting adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) among people living with HIV/AIDS in Antigua and Barbuda. The findings identified multiple variables, emphasizing the dynamic components affecting ART adherence. These findings address a local gap and provide insights into the unique adherence challenges faced by a vulnerable population.



