

HONORARY DEGREE—MAY 2023

Daniel Richard Jackson

Doctor of Divinity

Daniel Richard Jackson made an incredible impact on the world throughout his 49-year career as a pastor, higher education teacher, and administrator.

Jackson was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He graduated from Canadian Union College (now Burman University) in Lacombe, Alberta, with a Bachelor of Arts in theology and biblical languages. He went on to receive a Master of Arts in religion in systematic theology from Andrews University in 1974.

Beginning in 1971, Jackson held pastoral positions in churches throughout the world. In Canada, where he began his career, he worked with numerous pastoral teams and served on the boards of multiple academies in addition to his preaching and member visitation duties. He was, additionally, deeply involved in uplifting and improving his surrounding communities through his work with diverse organizations, including the Canadian Media Foundations Board, Penticton Ministerial Association and the Edson "Civic Needs" Survey.

In 1981, Jackson went to Sri Lanka, serving both as a leader for the Southwest District of the Sri Lanka Union, Southern Asia Division, and as a senior pastor for two churches. He went on to work at Spicer Memorial College in Pune, India, where he served as senior pastor of the college church, campus chaplain, an instructor in the Department of Religion and chair of the Applied Theology Department.

He returned to Canada in 1991 to become president of the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Conference and in 2000 he took on the role of president of the British Columbia Conference. Later, in 2002, he worked as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada for eight years.

In 2010, Jackson accepted a call to serve as president of the North American Division within the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He was known for his thoughtful and wise leadership and his ability to successfully navigate even the most challenging circumstances. After 10 years as NAD president, Jackson retired in 2020.

To each ministry call over the course of his career, Jackson brought a keen desire to point others to Jesus, equip all members to serve as ministers of the gospel, and model servant leadership. He found great joy in empowering lay members, administrators and boards to embrace their mission, while courageously and prayerfully leading. Jackson also experienced the privilege of sharing in the beauty and diversity of many cultures while participating in humanitarian and education projects in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Jackson and his wife, Donna Jean Turner, have three beloved children, Dena, Lara and Danny; their spouses Joel Melashenko and Marisa Nischuk; and four grandchildren, Andre and Jonathan Melashenko (Maddie and Nicole) and Renic and Tessa Jackson.

While Jackson was originally scheduled to receive his honorary degree from Andrews University in 2020, the presentation was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He then planned to attend the summer 2021 graduation service but, in a testament to his heart and passion for humanity, instead felt called to assist with emergency response work in Canada. The degree conferral was rescheduled

for May 2022, but Jackson's cancer diagnosis and treatment made attendance impossible. He died on July 23, 2022.

And so, this honorary degree will be awarded posthumously and presented to Jackson's wife, Donna, and two of their children Dan Jr. and Lara.

For his exemplary service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and his deep heart for all the people he led and served, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Daniel Richard Jackson with the degree Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.