



January 2025

Reflections

The Most Important Person

Once, when asked to speak to a group of hospital managers, I started in an unusual way. I asked them to stand and then gave them instructions. “Quickly, point to the most important person in the room.” As you might guess, many of them pointed to their supervisors, some to the board chairman, and one even graciously pointed to me since I was the speaker.

I told them we all take turns being the most important person in the room. To illustrate, let me give you a little quiz.

A couple just learned that their young son had died during surgery. Who was the most important person to that couple? The hospital president, the chief medical officer, or the housekeeper assigned to their room? Certainly, there are times when the president or chief medical officer would have been the most important person, but on that day, it was the housekeeper. Learning that the little boy had died, she put down her broom, gave each of the parents a hug, and assured them of her prayers.



PAYROLL BULLETIN BOARD

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THIS MONTH:
January 27

NEXT MONTH:
February 27



Ed Motschiedler is a retired pastor and administrator who served 25 years on various healthcare boards. He currently lives in Riverside, California, and is the volunteer associate director of the Center for Conflict Resolution at La Sierra University, which recently sent a team to conduct a workshop for Adventist pastors in Ukraine.

One Sabbath morning at Kettering Church, the temperature was 15 degrees below zero. Who do you think was the most important person in church that day? You might point to the pastor who preached, the choir director, or the organist who played the Widor Toccata for the postlude. It was the two deacons who walked across the street to the hospital and returned with their work pickups and jumper cables. Many cars that started easily in warm garages would not start in the freezing cold after church.

A business meeting was in progress discussing whether to build a new Seventh-day Adventist church school to replace the old rundown building. Who were the most important people at that meeting? Was it the four physicians with

We all take turns being the most important person in the room.

the highest giving potential, the pastor trying to lead the group through a difficult decision, or the oldest people there—a retired couple who lived very simply? Later,

the physicians and the pastor played important roles in building the school, but at that meeting, the retired couple turned out to be the most important people. During the discussion about how impossible it would be to raise the money, the couple said, “We must do something for the children. We had been saving money for years to replace our kitchen floor, but we are giving that money today for the new school.” Suddenly, the discussion changed from what they couldn’t do to what could and must be done.

A man walking on a dusty road was robbed, injured, and left to die (Luke 10: 30-38). Who was the most important person that day, the respected priest, the religious Levite, or the looked-down-upon Samaritan? You already know the answer to that question, don’t you?

Let’s reverse these stories. What if we view the grieving parents, the people whose cars wouldn’t start, the children in need of a new school, and the injured traveler as the most important people? This would help us understand the motives of their helpers. They followed the example of Jesus, who treated everyone He met as the most important person. There are

many examples. The man let down through the roof (Mark 2:3-11), the woman who touched His garment (Luke 8:43-46), the Roman Centurion (Matthew 8: 5-13), and the thief on the cross (Luke 23:35-43).

You have met people like that, haven’t you? You have said of them, “What a wonderful listener, they really care about me; what a helpful suggestion they made; what a kind thing they did, they made me feel loved and valued. They made me feel, at that moment, that I was the most important person in the world to them.”

Your turn as the most important person comes when you determine to view people as Jesus did and then meet their needs. That moment can happen anytime or anywhere. It may happen at work, at church, or at home. It happens when we ask someone, “How are you?” and then patiently listen. It happens when a child needs help with homework. It happens when you help a neighbor look for their cat—again.

Let’s ask God to help us recognize when we can be the most important, helpful person to someone and then to help us treat that person as Jesus would. That could happen today! You might even already know who that person should be. ■

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Our Gracious and Heavenly Father!

God has been so wonderful and gracious to us.

Last year, we survived this country's presidential election, eyed a solar eclipse to remember, witnessed a boost in artificial intelligence, and watched the Olympic games. Some inherited new debts and battled family challenges, while others faced illnesses and loneliness. Nevertheless, we are grateful that God, in His great mercy, has granted us life to experience an unprecedented time in the history of this world.

As Seventh-day Adventists, while we ruminate on the world's condition we can confidently say that the precious prophecies dwelling in our hearts and minds for so long are finally unfolding before our very eyes, yielding us closer to our Lord and Savior's second coming.

As we enter the new year, let us continue praying for our King's second coming, pressing on toward the finish line; remaining steadfast, upright, faithful, and clinging to the promise of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words".

Besides good health, longevity, protection, love, and peace, my prayer for all of us during this new year is for the gift of the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and make us more like Jesus. May 2025 be your upper room year, where you get closer to our Redeemer and Creator while carrying out Jesus's great commission. Dear friend, hang on a little longer; He is even at the door!

God bless you,

Edwin Romero

Administrator & Chief Executive Officer

SHARP Corner

(Supplemental Healthcare Adventist Retirement Plan)

Happy New Year!

We are excited to continue serving and look forward to conversations and interactions with you this year!

At this writing, we are hoping to add a new SHARP Assistant following Stephanie Portugal's transition to our payroll team last Spring. That will fully staff our team and give us more opportunities to serve.

Some things to keep in mind regarding our team and office:

▶ **The main line for SHARP is 443-391-7338.**

This is not the main line for address changes or payroll issues, but rather just for healthcare issues. See the directory on the back of this newsletter for other numbers.

▶ **Our SHARP team is staffed from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday.**

If you call and get a voicemail message, it is likely because we are either all on a phone call, in staff worship or in a staff meeting. We stagger lunch time to ensure someone is available to answer calls.

▶ **Monday-Thursday, NAD worship is at 8:30 a.m. eastern time.**

We do not answer the phone during that time. Please leave one message, or give us a call back after 9:00 a.m.

▶ **We're here to help you.**

While the team has specific alpha assignments, any of us can help you.

▶ **Our email is sharp@nadadventist.org**

The full team receives these emails and will answer as quickly as possible.

Let us know how we can serve you this year!



Adventist Retirement

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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Submit DVH claims to:

Adventist Risk Management

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Payroll Bulletin Board:

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