



MEN'S MINISTRIES

Seventh-day Adventist Church  
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

January 2026  
**EDITION 01**



# FORGED IN FAITH

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

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Proverbs 1:7

## Message from the Director

Welcome to this space created just for you—a place where we can walk together in faith, challenge each other to grow, and discover what it truly means to live as men of God in today's world.

I don't know about you, but I've often felt like the Christian journey can be isolating for men. We're expected to have it all figured out, to be strong and unwavering, yet we're also called to be vulnerable, humble, and authentic. That tension isn't easy to navigate alone. The Sacred Book reminds us in the book of Ecclesiastes, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up".

This newsletter exists because I believe we need each other. We need honest conversations about our struggles—whether it's in our marriages, as fathers, in our work, or in our walk with God. We need encouragement when we're tempted to give up. We need accountability when we're drifting. And we need to be reminded that our identity isn't found in what we achieve, but in whose we are.

In these pages, you'll find practical wisdom for everyday challenges, biblical insights that speak about real life, stories from men just like you, and resources to help you grow spiritually, relationally, and emotionally. My hope is that this becomes more than just something you read—that it becomes part of your journey toward becoming the man God created you to be.

You're not alone in this. Let's walk this road together.

In His service,

**César De León PhD LMFT**  
North American Division  
Men's Ministries Director



## Pastoral Note

### MEN WHO TRANSFORM: THE CALL TO EDUCATE

By Florencio Bueno

In a world where education faces enormous challenges—millions of children without schooling and young people unable to understand a basic text—the church is confronted with an urgent need: men willing to teach, guide, and shape others.

Christian education is more than transferring information; it is a spiritual act that forms character and leaves an eternal impact. Jesus defined the mission of the church in educational terms: “Make disciples... teaching them.” It’s not about being an expert, but about being available. Every man can teach through conversation, guidance, companionship, modeling values, and sharing faith in everyday life.

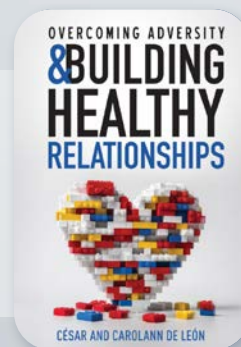
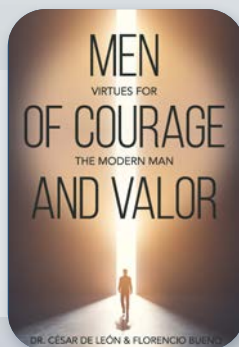
Spiritual formation involves a complete transformation of the soul. Scripture reminds us that true learning begins with “the fear of the Lord” and is reflected in discernment and maturity. When a man lives out his faith, his words and actions become a continuous school for those around him.

Today we extend a challenge to every man in our church: become an agent of change. Share wisdom, guide others, create spaces for mentoring, and let your life be a testimony that educates. Christ calls you to influence, to disciple, and to transform your community.

**To educate is an act of redemption. And God has called you to it.**

## RESOURCES for LEADERS

(Click on the images)



## Event

**March 6-8** | **Florida Conference  
Men's Retreat**  
Camp Kulaqua

[Register here](#)



## Testimony

### WHEN CHRIST BECOMES THE FOUNDATION

Dr. Gayle Norton

My name is Gayle Norton, and I serve as the principal and lead teacher for the 7th and 8th grades at Tri-Cities Adventist School. In addition to my administrative leadership, I teach three core classes for our middle school students. Serving in a Christian school allows me to combine academic excellence with spiritual mentoring.

I was raised in a home where faith, church, and education were central to daily life. My father served as a pastor, educator, and theology professor, so from childhood I was immersed in Adventist culture. Even so, for many years my faith was more inherited than personal.

During my junior year of high school, I began to deepen my relationship with God. However, the defining moment came during my senior year. My girlfriend and I were discussing marriage, and after seeking my father's counsel I decided that we should move forward with prudence and maturity. Months later, we attended a Bible conference together, but instead of drawing closer, she distanced herself and ultimately ended the relationship.

I remember walking alone through the campgrounds, heartbroken. There I understood that every human relationship, no matter how meaningful, is fragile. If the person I believed I would spend my life with could walk away, then my only secure foundation had to be Jesus Christ. In that solitude, I acknowledged Jesus as my personal Savior. That experience marked the beginning of a living grounded in belief and trust.

Looking back, I see how God used a moment of loss to redirect my life toward a purpose far greater than I could have imagined. Accepting Jesus as my Savior changed the direction of my career and anchored my life in the mission of Adventist education: partnering with families and the church to restore the image of God in young people. It remains the most important decision I have ever made, and one for which I am deeply grateful.

**CHALLENGE**  
of the **MONTH**

Commit to attending a men's retreat this year.

official site: [NAD Men's Ministries](#)

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