

SUMMER
2026

FROM THE GC LOMA LINDA OFFICE

MISSION MESSAGES

WELCOME TO OUR

DMA & GSA Newsletter



In this newsletter:

Latest stories, announcements,
and photos from our DMAs and
GSAs around the globe!

Welcome

Interwoven in this issue is the idea of finding belonging and purpose. Our alumni features showcase how our connections with others can help identify and strengthen our calling while giving us an opportunity to support the calls of those around us.

Here we explore how belonging can develop in the long-term professional and academic interactions that grow into meaningful friendships, how our pursuit of building others up and encouraging their higher education and training can motivate us with purpose.

What makes these interactions deeply impactful is the presence of love – love for God and for our global neighbors. To our alumni courageously crossing borders to foster hope and healing, thank you for your faithfulness!

– Angeli Yutuc

Global Outreach Manager
Global Health Institute



What The World Needs Now

MINDI GUPTILL, MD

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION
ASOME HEALTH, RWANDA

When called to service, we all wrestle with deep questions: What does the world need now? What is God's calling for me? How can I help? The answers differ for everyone. But for those drawn to cross-cultural service, these questions carry a unique weight.

What does the world need now? The timeless answer remains: love in action and service to humankind.

Our family was drawn to the Adventist School of Medicine of East-Central Africa (ASOME) because a profound injustice remains: severe healthcare disparity. In many parts of Africa, people still suffer needlessly without access to a qualified physician. Africa desperately needs love and service delivered through medical ministry.

Located in Kigali, Rwanda, ASOME was established to answer this exact call. Next year, the institution will celebrate the graduation of its very first cohort from its comprehensive 6.5-year medical doctor degree program.

This graduation is a dream come true for so many, but it holds a deeply personal meaning for our family. We have watched this school grow from its earliest planning stages. In 2016, our family took a leap of faith. With three young children in tow, we moved to Rwanda to support the country's first Emergency Medicine Residency Program. While our initial calling wasn't through the Adventist Church—but rather the Human Resources for Health program, a partnership between the Rwandan government, Columbia University and Brown University—our year of service changed everything. We fell in love with Rwanda and quickly shared in the growing excitement for this upcoming Adventist medical school.

In 2025, our family answered the call to return to Rwanda, uniting behind a deeply personal mission. While cross-cultural work brings daily hurdles and building a medical school demands heavy sacrifice, our focus never wavers. We remain fixed on our ultimate goal: bringing lasting healing and vital medical care to a region that needs it most through the training of African medical doctors.

Mindi Guptill, MD (LLUSM '06), and her husband, Scott Guptill, serve as key leaders at ASOME, bringing distinct expertise to the institution's educational and outreach missions. Mindi coordinates clinical education across multiple affiliated hospitals, managing programs across diverse levels of patient care. She also practices clinically as an emergency physician at Kibagabaga Level 2 Teaching Hospital, where she directly supervises ASOME medical students. As ASOME's Communications Director, Scott oversees the institution's public presence, managing social media platforms, website development, photography, and videography. Outside of their professional roles, the couple resides locally with their three teenage children, who attend a Christian international school.

ASOME is growing and actively seeking dedicated basic science and clinical faculty to help build our expanding medical program. We have nearly 300 students over the 6 year curriculum with many opportunities for short-term or long-term service. We invite you to join our mission-driven team for a meaningful, life-changing experience in medical education. Our leadership team includes Dean Dr. Stephen Waterbrook (LLUSM '04), who brings extensive international surgical experience, and his wife, Katie Waterbrook, an assistant lecturer in the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) School of Nursing. <https://asome.health/contact/join-the-team>

To continue training medical doctors, we urgently need your partnership to complete vital campus infrastructure and keep doors open for the deserving. Our urgent needs:

Complete the Women's Residence:

- We have a partially built dormitory that needs finishing funds to provide safe, reliable, on-campus housing for female students.

Fund Student Scholarships:

- Many dedicated future medical doctors face severe financial hurdles and need direct tuition assistance to continue their education.

Click here to Donate Online

Serving in Rwanda brings our family profound joy and purpose. We have witnessed firsthand how investing in a medical school uplifts not only individual students but entire communities. Education is one of the most powerful ways to transform a region. Because this work is a true calling, we encourage anyone feeling even a small nudge to answer it.

WEBSITE:

<https://asome.health/>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

FACEBOOK: Adventist School of Medicine of East-Central Africa
INSTAGRAM AND X: @ASOMEhealth

***Our Favorite Family Activities In Rwanda:**

- Camping and viewing wildlife in Akagera National Park
- Swimming, kayaking and hanging around Lake Kivu
- Our pets (two dogs and two chameleons)
- Playing school sports like basketball





Finding Family in Kenya

ISMARI ALTAMIRANO, MOT
KENDU ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, KENYA

One of life's greatest blessings is the love of family. When you're far from home, you begin to long for that same sense of belonging, a place where you are known and loved. Living in Kenya, I never felt far from home because of the community and love I found there, especially through my friend, Amina.

I first met Amina while working at Kendu Adventist Hospital. She was a patient there, and I saw her every day for occupational therapy during the two months she was admitted. During that time, I learned a great deal about her. She had spent most of her career as a teacher, loved singing and participating in choirs, and had lived in India for six years with her husband while he completed his master's degree. They also raised their oldest daughter there. When I met Amina, she was nearing the completion of her doctoral program but had taken a leave of absence following an accident.

She was fully committed to therapy, determined to regain her strength and improve her stability so she could return to her studies. Over the course of her stay, our therapist-patient relationship grew into a friendship. As she prepared to leave the hospital, we made plans to stay in touch.

Since then, I've had the wonderful opportunity to meet her family, celebrate her late father-in-law's 100th birthday, celebrate my own birthday with her, share countless lunches and dinners, and even introduce her to my family when they visited Kenya. During my time there, Amina became like an aunt to me. I hope to return one day to visit her and celebrate her graduation from her doctoral program next year.

Learning to Make Kenyan Chapati

ISMARI ALTAMIRANO, MOT
KENDU ADVENTIST HOSPITAL, KENYA

When I was living in Kenya, chapati was one of the staples in their cuisine that quickly became a favorite of mine. It was like a thicker tortilla but with extra flaky layers. It didn't seem too hard to make. Everyone I talked to said all you needed was flour, sugar, salt, water, and oil.

I looked up different videos and talked to several people to see how they made it, but I could never get it quite right. It was never as soft, flaky, or tasty as the chapati I had in Kenya. I even shared the exact measurements I was using with one of my friends, and he told me I had used too much oil, which only made me even more confused about how to make it.

So my friend Angie and I invited him over to show us exactly how he made chapati. I quickly realized that he wasn't measuring anything. He simply followed what felt and looked right. He was using a lot more oil than he had told me, and he wasn't kneading the dough for nearly as long as he had described.

The instructions seemed to be something like this:

- Pour flour into a large bowl.
- Add one spoonful each of sugar and salt.
- Mix with warm water.
- Add oil before kneading.

Not the most descriptive and definitely confusing. My friend and I visited several different homes to see how people made their chapati, and every family had a slightly different method. Even our first friend made it a little differently each time we watched him. I never quite mastered the perfect chapati, but maybe someone reading this will be inspired to give it a try.

Below is a recipe I put together by combining recipes I found with the techniques I learned from watching my friends in Kenya. Hopefully, you'll have better luck than I did. I don't think I'll get to eat really good chapati again until I'm back in Kenya.

Ingredients

- 4 cups flour (about two-thirds of a large bowl)
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1¼ cups warm water
- ¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon vegetable oil (plus additional oil for cooking)

Learning to Make Kenyan Chapati – Continued

Directions

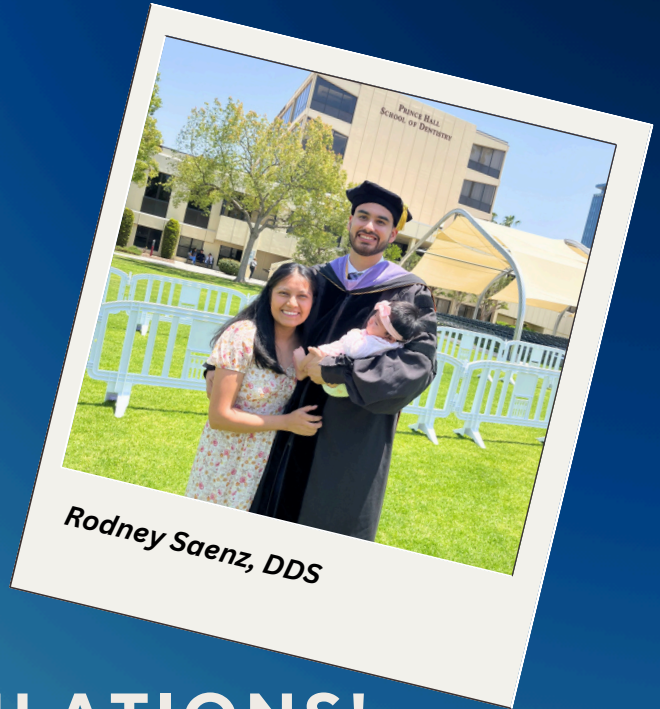
1. Combine the flour, sugar, and salt in a large bowl.
2. Add the warm water and mix until the dough is almost combined. It should still look slightly dry and shaggy.
3. Add the oil.
4. Knead for only 1–2 minutes, just until the ingredients come together. (Overkneading can make the chapati less soft.)
5. Cover the bowl with a towel and let the dough rest for 10 minutes.
6. Roll the dough into a large rectangle.
7. Spread a thin layer of oil over the surface.
8. Cut the dough into long strips using the handle of a spoon or another utensil.
9. Roll each strip into a ball.
10. Lightly flour your work surface and roll each ball into a large circle.
11. Place the chapati on a hot skillet or tortilla pan and cook briefly on both sides.
12. Brush one side with a spoonful or two of oil, flip, and repeat on the other side.
13. Continue cooking until both sides are golden brown.
14. Remove from the pan and immediately cover with a lid or towel to trap the steam and keep the chapati soft.



DMA 2026 GRADUATES



Kelsey Johnson, MD
Emergency Medicine Residency



Rodney Saenz, DDS

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to all of our DMA students on completing this milestone in your training. We celebrate with you and wish you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your journey.



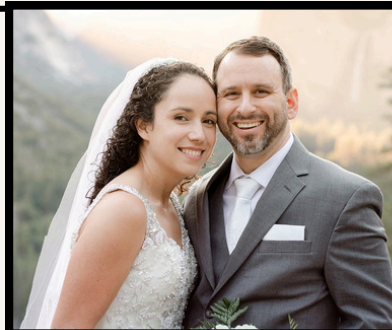
Mason Clark, MD
Emergency Medicine Residency

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

DMA David & Breanna Skau in June

DMA Monte & Jaquelin Bermeo in July



START OF SERVICE

DMA Nolan Bayen with his wife Edna and children Noah and Nadia started service at *Kendu Adventist Hospital*, Kenya in August



MIG VESPERS

Join us on **Friday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m.** for a presentation by Dr. Stephen Waterbrook, Dean of the Adventist School of Medicine of East-Central Africa (ASOME) in Rwanda.



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GHLA 2026

Save the Date! The Global Healthcare Leadership Academy (GHLA) will take place **December 1–5, 2026**, at the Life Hope Center in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. We hope you'll join us for this exciting opportunity to connect, learn, and grow alongside healthcare leaders from around the world.

Learn More : ghi.llu.edu/philippines2026

Global Healthcare LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PHILIPPINES 2026



Submit a Prayer Request: <https://ghi.llu.edu/prayer>

CURRENT DMAs & GSAs:

Visit Us & Share Your Mission Story

Accommodations in Loma Linda provided

What is Provided:

- Two weeks of accommodations on or close to campus

In Exchange For:

- Public Relations activity - video recording, etc. or
- Event Speaker (MIG vespers, Oak Glen Fellowship, etc.)

Contact the GC Loma Linda Office to coordinate at least one month before visit by calling 909-558-7747 or email gc@llu.edu



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Global Health Institute