



A Newsletter for supporters of TEAM

Issue No. 6 | Fall-Winter 2022

# TEAMWORK



Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry (TEAM) is a private organization supporting the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of race, social class or gender.

## **XIAORU (SHA-RAY) WANG FROM CHINA, FORMER TEAM RECIPIENT, NOW A CHAPLAIN AT KETTERING HEALTH, OHIO CONFERENCE**



Hello everyone, my name is Xiaorui (pronounced: Sha-Ray). I came from mainland China. God converted me from an atheist to be an Adventist during my college years. Then He divinely appointed me to serve in ministry and brought me to Andrews

University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

During my MDiv study, God showed me so much love and miracles through people, especially through TEAM. Without their kindness and yearly scholarship, I could not have made it to graduation. I praise God for TEAM! I graduated from Andrews with an MDiv in 2021.

During 2021-2022, I have been serving as a chaplain resident in Kettering Health, Ohio, to bring light and love to people who are in the hospital in crisis and to bring care and support to our staff who are exhausted. Thank you, TEAM! May the Lord continue to shine through you!

## **GRAVINE NYAATA, JULY 2022 TEAM GRADUATE FROM UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA, BARATON (UEAB), KENYA**



My call to ministry came in an unexplainable way, and in a manner that some of the people who seemed to be close to me turned against me when God spoke to me in the stillness of His voice to join ministry.

After sharing my experience with friends and relatives, the situation seemed more difficult. There was no support from anyone but me and God.

When I got my admission letter from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya, I had no school fees. I applied for a TEAM scholarship as well as a work-study program, and with God's help I was able to finish my studies. I learned from experience that God is always in control of every situation, and He can finish what He has begun.

My plans are to go for further studies and get a Master's in Old Testament studies. May God bless TEAM.

[timeforequality.net](https://timeforequality.net)

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

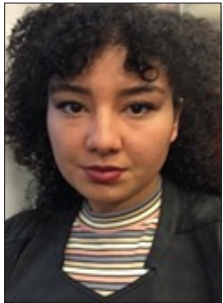
**PAGE 1** This years TEAM Recipients—  
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**SAMANTHA JONES, CURRENT TEAM  
RECIPIENT FROM CANADA, AT ANDREWS  
UNIVERSITY, BERRIEN SPRING, MICHIGAN**



My name is Samantha Jones, and I am 27 years old and Canadian. When I was finishing my undergraduate degree in both French and Spanish back when I was 22 years old, I did not know what my identity was for Christ. As I was searching, I became interested in doing the Master of Divinity back then, hoping to work with youth/chaplaincy. I had a dream for ministry especially since working at Camp Frenda, the Adventist summer camp in Ontario. But it was not to be at that time, as I was too fearful of the program.

I resisted my curiosity with fear and looked elsewhere and found my identity in Christ as an educator. I proceeded in completing Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees instead. I have been through a couple of years of teaching, and I absolutely love how God shines through me as an elementary school teacher in the public school system. I have a passion for being a safe place for children and being that consistent light that helps develop their character.

But I heard a message by Wintley Phipps where he said . . . “Give your dreams to God and let Him handle it. You do not have to know the result; you just have to give your dream to Him.” That stirred my heart for the third time so much that I could not ignore it anymore. It made me realize that even though I may have a fear of the unknown and I do not know where this program will take me, I will take a leap of faith on this dream and know that God will be there to support me.

I am excited to see how God can combine my educator abilities with working diligently for the Lord in a big way through ministry. I honestly do not

know where He will take me, but I know that despite being fearful of the unknown, I am willing to give my best efforts in faith. I have decided to give my dream to God, and I am letting Him handle it.

**RACHEL ARNER, CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT  
FROM THE UNITED STATES AT ANDREWS  
UNIVERSITY, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN**



Rachel Arner is going into her third year studying for a Master of Divinity at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is very grateful for the scholarship from TEAM in years past and has continued to

share the news of TEAM with others coming into the seminary as well. She is very involved in ministry, such as hosting a Seventh-day Adventist Christian podcast called PreacherGirl and sharing encouraging Bible content on her social-media platforms for PreacherGirl. She also serves on the creative team at One Place Fellowship (an on-campus church at Andrews University). She works for Adventist Information Services as a Digital Projects Assistant writing content to help others in their walk with God.

Rachel loves to pray with people any chance she gets, as she knows there is power in prayer. She loves talking about Jesus and sharing His hope and love with people online, in person, and through encouraging others. She is very grateful for TEAM and how they support women in ministry!



**LUNA ALZATE, FROM COLOMBIA, FORMER  
TEAM RECIPIENT**



Every time I can testify of God's love, I can say that TEAM has been a way that God manifested His love through the TEAM scholarships that allowed me to graduate from the Adventist university in Colombia.

For the past three years, I have been working as principal of the Lejanías Adventist School. Initially I was hired as school coordinator, and in 2020, I was promoted to principal, not knowing that soon I would have to face the difficulties of a pandemic. Nevertheless, with God's help, we were able to move forward. We are working on expanding the building. There are two requirements that we must complete: first, to develop the laboratories; and second, to construct two more classrooms. The Lord continues to give us His blessings.

I am also active in the church as youth director and Pathfinder leader. We are also searching for resources to equip the new Pathfinder Club, since we do not have any camping facilities. The young people have been working hard in sales and missionary work, and we are growing in number and spiritually.

It has been a blessing to serve the Lord through these young people. I live surrounded by boys and girls who need the Lord and how to know Him better. They need to have new and significant experiences with their Creator.

At the school we want to find ways to help children with special needs. A greater number of these children have enrolled, and the school does not have someone prepared to give them the attention they need. Nevertheless, we are helping them to the best of our abilities. However, it is important to train our teachers more. God always shows us His love and mercy with these students.

Even though I have never met any TEAM donors, I thank them for the beautiful expression of God's love through their generosity and kindness.

**FERNANDA BARROS DA CONCEIÇÃO, FROM  
BRAZIL, FORMER TEAM RECIPIENT**



Fernanda lives in Brazil, where she was born 26 years ago. When she was 8 years old, she decided to be baptized into the Adventist Church. She loved to sing in church, and at 11, she asked to preach for the first time. With her mother's help she prepared her sermon, and she has not stopped preaching and singing since then.

When she was 15 years old, she committed her life to work for God, but she didn't know what to do to enter college, so she continued to be very active in her church. At the age of 18 she became the speaker for her first evangelistic series. Over the years, more than 300 persons have accepted Jesus as their Savior through Fernanda's evangelism and Bible studies. She gives all the glory to God.

When she was 20 years old, she started working as a colporteur, and was able to enter the Adventist theological seminary in Brazil. With a scholarship from TEAM, she was able to graduate with two degrees: a bachelor's in theology and another in education. She has been working as a religion teacher in an Adventist school since then.

Fernanda has felt called to serve the Lord since she was a small girl. This calling has always been as a burning flame in her heart. Her path in the seminary was very arduous, but she learned to depend totally on God. She says, "No matter how difficult, I am very happy for my formation in the seminary. If I had to walk the same path again, I would. It doesn't matter what people think or say, when the Lord placed this vocation in my heart, I had to follow without fear. This is God's plan. He knows the end from the beginning, and He will open the way."

Please pray for Fernanda and other women that are called to ministry, so that the Adventist Church may be blessed by their gifts throughout the world. And support TEAM with your prayers and donations, so that more scholarships will be available.



**YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ, FROM CAPE VERDE,  
AFRICA, CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT AT  
WASHINGTON ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY,  
TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**



I was born and raised in Cape Verde; a country made up of 10 small islands off the coast of West Africa. I got married and had my first child in my last year of high school, and I could not graduate. However, the dream of completing high school and taking my education to the high-

est level possible never diminished. Consequently, a few years after marriage, I completed my high school program and subsequently gained a college degree.

After finishing my undergraduate program, I started a business in my field of training (psychology), the goal of which was to help families develop skills that empower them to successfully navigate life and embrace the opportunities it provides. Hopefully, this would be reflected in the community and society at large.

As time transpired, my husband and I decided to build our own house and position ourselves to help our two daughters prepare for college. In the process, I supported my husband in his pursuit of a Master's degree, putting my own academic ambitions on hold in the process.

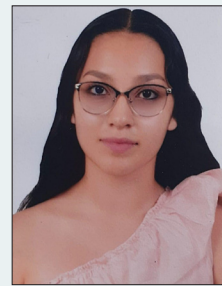
Our plan did not materialize as initially envisioned. Financial hardship and family crises intervened and thwarted that plan, to the extent that my dream of furthering my education to equip myself more fully to serve my community seemed unrealizable. Nevertheless, I was not prepared to give up and tried every means I could think of to get back on track.

Eventually, I was able to start a graduate program in family counseling and marriage therapy. The path to this new beginning was not without immense hardship, tears, disappointments, and moments of depression. As I started my graduate program, I realized, with the advice of some friends, that the financial struggle that I have been facing since starting my own business could be avoided only as I took a different approach to realize my professional goal. As a result, I decided to suspend my graduate program to do an undergraduate religion and nursing program. With this new plan, my intention is to resume my business starting with the health/physical-care area, progressively incorporating the mental-health and spiritual aspects.

I am passionate about serving my community and adding value to the lives of people wherever I find myself. My personal and professional aspiration after finishing my religion and nursing programs is to help others who like me struggle either physically, mentally, or spiritually. In my community, as far as I know, I am the second female majoring in religion and will be the first to work actively in this field. I believe that my community needs me, and God is calling me to give my contribution in such a time as this.

The TEAM scholarship is helping me fulfill my ambition and achieve my goals as well as inspiring other women to be persistent in pursuing their goals.

**RUBI SANCHEZ, FROM COLOMBIA,  
CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT AT ADVENTIST  
UNIVERSITY CORPORATION, COLUMBIA**



I was in my last year of high school, and like most of my peers, I didn't know my calling. In the beginning, I had medicine on my mind, so I was processing all the paperwork to go to River Plate Adventist University (UAP), in Argentina; nevertheless, that project started becoming blurred. I started asking myself if that was what I really wanted, or if I was being pressed to go that route.

A few months later, I became aware that my inclinations for the medical field was just pressure, and it was clear to me, I did not want to do that for the rest of my life. Now I was back to zero, not knowing what I was going to do, and with less than three months left before graduation. I was desperate to find my passion. I joined many conversations presented by virtual workshops to assist in finding my career.

There were many questions about what I was good at, what I liked, and answering all those questions I realized that overall, my biggest desire, in first place, was to serve God, and in second place to travel the world, to know different cultures and share with them the love that I already knew. I didn't know that the Adventist University Corporation in Columbia (UNAC) had an undergraduate degree in religious education, but a good friend told me about it. At first, I didn't really believe him, because I thought it was just for men, since that's what I had been taught all my life. Then I noticed that I could also attend and that it was something spectacular, and I became so

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## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEAM – JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022

### Adventist Theology University, Venezuela

**Cinthia D. Guzman Rojas**  
Undergraduate Theology

### Adventist University Corporation, Columbia

**Daniela Angulo Cardenas**  
Undergraduate Religious Education

**Derlin Zuniga**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Elizabeth Murillo Ante**  
Specialization-Education

**Gil Maria Diaz**  
Master Education

**Ruby Sanchez**  
Religious Education

**Silvia Juliana Sanchez**  
Undergraduate Religious Education

**Yamaris M. Santacruz**  
Undergraduate Religious Education

**Yobery Mogollon\***  
Theology

### Adventist University of Africa - Kenya

**Grace Atieno Oyugi**  
M.A.B.T.S

**Jane Odera**  
M.A.B.T.S

**Miriam Samo Gitonge**  
PhD Biblical Studies

**Rosemary Akoth Okeyo**  
M.A.B.T.S

**Zipporah Ongweso**  
Master Chaplaincy

### Andrews University - USA

**Alina Danielle Martin**  
M.Div

**Barbara Cumberbatch-Harris**  
Master Chaplaincy

**Brenda Michele Lee Rhyne**  
PhD Urban Ministry

**Evonne Gameti Witherspoon**  
PhD Theology

**Maggie M. Compton**  
PhD

**Marie Ann Jean-Baptiste**  
M.Div

**Nadeige Mars-Francois**  
M.Div

**Samantha Jones**  
M.Div

**Xuemei Fu\***  
M.Div

### Bugema Adventist University - Uganda

**Alice Adhiambo Odhiambo**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Alice Atieno Okumu**  
Undergraduate Theology

### Bugema Adventist University - Uganda

**Doris Maranga**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Dorothy Jekporir\***  
Undergrad Theology

**Edissa Ndahayo\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Esther W Mbugua**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Felistus Mutunga**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Forniter Moraa Mose**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Ida Kemunto**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Joan Cherono**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Joyvial Mweu**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Judith Kulecho**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Lucy K Njeru**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Mary Nyambura\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Mercy Karoki\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Mercy Omayo**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Mildred Owino**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Milka Muthoni Kamau\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Nancy Chumo**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Ndekega Daniel**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Obonyo Nyanchama**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Olivia Jekpogei**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Pendo Thomas\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Rachel Patrick\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Ramlah Noah\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Rodah Nyakora**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Teresa Basweti**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Zilpah Moraa Akenga\***  
Undergraduate Theology

### Cuba Adventist Seminary - Cuba

**Bertha Zamora Nunez\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Daliris Castaneda Cadena\***  
Undergraduate Theology

### Cuba Adventist Seminary - Cuba

**Heilyn Guevara Gonzalez\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Ismary Ramirez Diaz**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Maria Sabater Sanchez**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Nalligis Perez Casa\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Regla M. Gala Hidalgo**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Sidney Gonzalez Ortega**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Taimara Cuesta Ramon\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Yadira Castellanos Garcia**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Yaima Aguilera Quevedo**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Yuleimy Albelo Vazquez\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Yurianny Royero Mohinelo\***  
Undergraduate Theology

### Loma Linda University - USA

**Claudia Francis**  
DMFT

### Montemorelos University - SETAI - Mexico

**Annia Vives**  
PhD Family Relations

**Marielvys Font Gonzalez**  
MA-Pastoral Theology

**Milena Rey Alba**  
PhD Chaplaincy

**Thairubys Contreras**  
M.A.B.T.S.

### Peruvian Union University - Peru

**Erika Huamani**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Luz Vivanco**  
PhD Theology

**Wendy Fernandez**  
Undergraduate Theology

### University of East Africa - Baraton - Kenya

**Anne Orieko**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Beatrice Kemunto Kimori**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Charity Bpnareri Kiage**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Christina Tete Wani**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Eunice Adwar**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Everlyne Auma Ager**  
Undergraduate Theology

### University of East Africa - Baraton - Kenya

**Gravine Nyaata\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Janet Gworo**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Janet Odera**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Josephine Rioba**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Joyce Bamai**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Maurine Awor**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Miriam Samo Gitonge**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Peninah Bonareri Ondieki**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Priscah Ondwari\***  
Undergraduate Theology

**Rosaline Wambui Njanja**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Ruth Mang'are Obara**  
Undergraduate Theology

**Zipporah Ongweso**  
Master Chaplaincy

### Washington Adventist University - USA

**Yolanda Rodriguez**  
Religion

\*2022 Graduate

***“We need women at all levels, including the top, to change the dynamic, reshape the conversation, to make sure women’s voices are heard and heeded, not overlooked and ignored.”***

*— Sheryl Sandberg*

***Thank you for your support of TEAM***



EQUALITY

TIMEFOREQUALITY.NET



SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN



SUPPORT

## RUBI SANCHEZ, FROM COLOMBIA

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so sure that's what I wanted to do and where I wanted to put all my focus.

But how would I find the other part of my dream, to travel the world? Then I found out there was another career offered that offered Spanish and English, I wanted to learn both languages well, so that I could teach and socialize with others in different parts of the world. Now I know that the fusion of these two undergraduate programs will help me become what I love and long to be, a missionary, to preach the gospel without distinction of race, culture, or ideology, because in our hearts there is a void, which only God can fill.

***"The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you're very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble." — Serena Williams***

## Scholarships

January-December 2022

**\$86,663.00**

Total — Scholarships and Assistance through December 2022

**\$93,487.00**

Other assistance (such as graduation fees)

**\$6,824.00**

Women receiving scholarships in 2022

**91**



See 2021 scholarship recipients at:  
**[timeforequality.net/post/2021-scholarships-and-laptops](https://timeforequality.net/post/2021-scholarships-and-laptops)**

We could not have done this without your support, which is vital as we continue to award scholarships to educate women globally. Thank You!

## Year-end Giving to TEAM

Your financial support allows us to continue to award scholarships and provide laptops to women in ministry who are following their calling from around the world.

### ONLINE GIVING

Go to: [timeforequality.net/support-us](https://timeforequality.net/support-us)

### CHECK/MONEY ORDER

Mail to: TEAM, P.O. Box 7816, Langley Park, MD 20787-7816.

**STOCK DONATIONS:** TEAM accepts stock donations. If you wish to donate stocks before year-end, please contact Kay Rosburg at [Rosburgkay@gmail.com](mailto:Rosburgkay@gmail.com).

SCAN CODE



### TO NOTIFY US OF ADDRESS CHANGES OR TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

Please send a request by e-mail or regular mail to: [TEAMemail59@gmail.com](mailto:TEAMemail59@gmail.com) or TEAM, PO Box 7816, Langley Park, Maryland 20787-7816 U.S.A.

### Time for Equality in Adventist Ministry

*A private organization supporting the ordination of candidates to pastoral ministry regardless of gender, race, or social class.*

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