



TEAMWORK **TEAM**

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.

CHANDA NUNES, TEAM RECIPIENT, IS ELECTED BY NEVADA-UTAH CONFERENCE AS CHURCH'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN STATE CONFERENCE

Photo Courtesy of Adventist Today



Chanda Nunes, a TEAM recipient, was elected on February 24, 2022, to serve as the first black female Executive Secretary in a state conference in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North American Division. She was ordained to the gospel ministry in 2018.

She comes to this position from serving as the first black Senior Pastor of the Pacific Union College church, located in Angwin, California, in the Pacific Union Conference. She has also served in several other pastoral positions in Alberta Conference, Canada; Northern California Conference, California; and Kansas-Nebraska Conference, Kansas.

Nunes graduated from what is now Burman University (then Canadian University College) with a degree in Religious Studies and minor in Biblical Languages in 2003. She received her Master of Divinity (MDiv) at Andrews University.

Carlos Camacho, Nevada-Utah Conference Presi-

dent states: "God called Elder Chanda Nunes for such a time as this. Let me say again. God called Elder Chanda Nunes and we were obedient to Him. . . . Nevada-Utah is committed to reflecting and celebrating the diversity of our conference, our world, and the kingdom of God with gifted and faithful leaders of all races, male and female."

PASTOR MONICA KIMAIGA, CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT AND CHAPLAIN OF THE KENYA PRISON KAKAMEGA CHURCH



Pastor Monica Kimaiga graduated in 2018 with a degree in Theology from the University of East Africa, Baraton (UEAB), Kenya and is currently pursuing her Masters in Chaplaincy from the Adventist University of Africa (AUA), Kenya. More than being a recipient of

TEAM sponsorships, Monica has served as a teacher of Kenyan Sign Language and has been serving as an elementary school teacher until recently when God called her to serve as Chaplain of the Kenya Prison Kakamega church. She now ministers to female prisoners and the prison officials; a ministry that God is indeed blessing. TEAM is especially excited to

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share this news and would like to thank each one of its generous donors. It is your donation that has made it possible for Pastor Kimaiga to be trained

DR. ANNIA VIVES, CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT FROM CUBA, IS CURRENTLY ATTENDING INTER-AMERICAN ADVENTIST SEMINARY (SETAI) AT MONTEMORELOS UNIVERSITY, MEXICO



I love to study and learn every day. Therefore, after finishing Medical School I started a specialty in May, 1995. It was at this time that I made the best decision of my life. I was baptized into the Adventist Church, and made my faith public after years of cherishing it in my heart. The challenges at work and in my studies were immense due to my faith, but the blessings from the Lord were much greater.

On December, 1995, I married my husband, and we committed our life as a couple to ministry, and to work unconditionally for our God. He started his studies at the Cuban Adventist Seminary, and we moved to Havana with our 3-year-old daughter. Even though I was working as a physician, I fell in love with Theology, and applied to the Seminary. I was accepted and started studying combining my working hours as a doctor with my hours of classwork. It was a truly difficult time. I had to work to provide for our needs and to pay for my husband's and my studies. I had to take care of our daughter and our home and participate in our church. Then I had to prepare my assignments and take my exams on time. God sustained us in miraculous ways. Every day I saw His hands guiding my decisions, taking care of my family, and giving me the strength necessary to continue.

During the four years of study at the Seminary, I was also able to complete two Master's degrees in medicine: Ob Gyn and Sports Medicine. After graduation, I

and qualified for the position God has put her in for such a time as this.

continued studying for a Master's in pastoral theology, and became the first woman in Cuba to graduate with this degree. These challenges would have been impossible without the unconditional support of my husband, my daughter, my family, the help from TEAM, and the trust of the professors at the Cuban Adventist Theological Seminary and at the Inter-American Adventist Theological Seminary. At every moment God's hand shaped what I needed to do to give Him a better service.

Since 2014, I have been working full time as a theology professor at the Adventist seminary in Cuba, developing my other passion as a teacher. This was what the Lord was preparing me to do. The work with the students fills me with satisfaction. The Lord has opened a large field in which to serve. I started my doctorate in family relations at Montemorelos University, Mexico, in 2019.

It is impossible to enumerate every miracle that I have lived during the last four years: the travel, the TEAM scholarships, the learning experiences. Each one confirms more surely that the Lord has been in control of my life and has guided my steps to a sure harbor.

At present, besides my doctoral studies, I continue working as a seminary professor. I'm in charge of the Research Department, the Publications Department, and along with my husband we lead the Family Ministries Department of the Cuban Union Conference. I thank God every day for the multiple and wonderful opportunities to serve Him. We are His instruments.



CHRISTINE JIN CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT FROM CHINA ATTENDING ANDREWS UNIVERSITY IN BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

BY GERI ANN FULLER



A deep desire to find answers to her own questions and support young people struggling to bridge the gap between faith and education in China is what motivated Christine Jin, TEAM scholarship recipient, to study Education Psychology at Andrews University.

Although not on a direct ministerial track, Christine applied for and received a scholarship from TEAM because she wants to use her PhD in Educational Psychology to spread the Gospel by helping other young people seeking answers to their own questions. China, where she grew up, is different from the Western world when it comes to religious freedom and education. She wants to work with students who grew up attending SDA home-based schools or non-government-authorized church schools as well as those who, like her, attended public school. These young people are struggling with their own identity crises, as Christine did, she believes. She wants to help them thrive in Christ as they come to understand learning as a lifelong process. “I do not want to see younger Chinese SDA’s have to choose between education and their faith—they have the right to both of them.”

Growing up the daughter of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in China, available religious schooling was limited to home-schooling or church-based schools unauthorized by the government. “Before my father became a minister, he was a successful businessman, and my life was carefree,” she said. “Becoming a pastor was a life-changing decision for my father, and so was it for me.” She attended public school, deciding she needed more educational opportunities to meet her goals than would be offered in church schools, which would not qualify her for college entrance exams necessary to access quality higher education in China.

But the rub was dealing with the conflict between what she was taught in school and what she had been taught in church. “When I was finished with all this, I had some real issues to deal with: Who am I? What does God mean to me? Why did I choose to be a Christian? Do I have the courage to face tough questions raised

in the conflicts between Christianity and science, and between Christianity and other worldviews? My dad chose for my family but I had to choose for myself.”

Christine felt her relationship with God developed through facing these difficult questions. One turning point in her journey came in a non-SDA church in California where Christine was inspired by the slogan, “Christ is all and in all,” from Ephesians. The pastor from this church showed her that while we must work hard for our own goals, in the end all pursuits should lead to Christ.

Another turning point was the influence from a pastor from Australia. “This pastor told me that you are either the missionary or you are the mission field. I realized I must be the mission field because I have so many questions. I also realized that I had to be the mission field before I could be the missionary, even though I was born into a Christian family and raised that way.”

Her reading also led to pivot points. One was Dallas Willard’s “Nietzsche Versus Jesus Christ” in the book “*A Place for Truth*.” “I always thought of Nietzsche as anti-Christ and the icon of post-modernism,” Christine said. “Yet from this book I learned even Nietzsche could teach us how to be a better Christian if we really read it from the view of Christ.”

Her journey led Christine through a process of discipleship. Coming from an Asian culture and a conservative SDA family, Christine was taught to be respectful and always trust and obey even when she didn’t quite understand. Yet her experiences convicted her that God is not offended by sincere questions and loves an honest seeker. “Whatever questions one has, God is bigger.”

Christine is passionate about supporting other young people on their own faith journeys and wrestling with their own questions. One of her professors at Andrews helped her understand this journey as one of deconstruction and reconstruction. She believes “You need to travel this path to understand your own experience with God and not just something you inherited from your parents and grandparents.” She hopes to share from her own experience as she works with young people.

On track to graduate this year from Andrews University with Ph.D. in Education Psychology Christine says, “God made me this way, to ask questions. Not only ministers minister, believers can minister too. A minister can have many occupations.”

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

THE FOLLOWING WOMEN HAVE BEEN AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEAMS - JANUARY-APRIL 2022

Alice Adhiambo Odhiambo Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Maggie M. Compton PhD Grief Ministry	Andrews University, USA
Alice Atieno Okumu Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Maria Sabater Sanchez Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Alina Danielle Martin M.Div	Andrews University, USA	Marielvys Font Gonzalez MA-Pastoral Theology	Montemorelos University-SETAI, Mexico
Anne Orieko Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Mary Nyambura Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Barbara Cumberbatch-Harris Master Chaplaincy	Andrews University, USA	Maurine Awor Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya
Beatrice Kemunto Kimori Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Mercy Karoki Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Bertha E. Zamora Nunez Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba	Mercy Omayo Undergrad Theology Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda Middle East University, Lebanon
Brenda Michele Lee Rhyne PhD Urban Ministry	Andrews University, USA	Mildred Owino Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Christina Tete Wani Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Milka Muthoni Kamau Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Cinthia D. Guzman Rojas Undergrad Theology	Adventist Theology University, Venezuela	Nalligis Perez Casa Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Daliris Castaneda Cadena Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba	Ndekega Daniel Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Daniela Angulo Cardenas Undergrad Religious Edu	Adventist University Corporation, Colombia	Obonyo Nyanchama Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Doris Maranga Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Olivia Jepkoge Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Dorothy Jepkorir Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Pendo Thomas Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Elizabeth Murillo Ante Specialization - Education	Adventist University Corporation, Colombia	Peninah Bonareri Ondieki Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya
Erika Huamani Undergrad Theology	Peruvian Union University, Peru	Priscah Ondwari Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya
Esther W Mbugua Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Regla M. Gala Hidalgo Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Everlyne Auma Ager Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Rodah Nyakora Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Felistus Mutunga Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Rosaline Wambui Njanja Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya
Forniter Moraa Mose Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Rosemary Akoth Okeyo M.A.B.T.S	Africa Adventist University, Kenya
Gil Maria Diaz Master Education	Adventist University Corporation, Colombia	Ruth Bonareri Obwogi Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Grace Atieno Oyugi M.A.B.T.S	Africa Adventist University, Kenya	Ruth Mang'are Obara Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya
Gravine Nyaata Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Sidney Gonzalez Ortega Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Heilyn Guevara Gonzalez Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba	Silvia Juliana Sanchez Undergrad Religious Edu	Adventist University Corporation, Colombia
Ida Kemunto Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Taimara Cuesta Ramon Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Ismary Ramirez Diaz Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba	Teresa Basweti Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Janet Gworo Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Wendy Fernandez Undergrad Theology	Peruvian Union University, Peru
Joan Cheron Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Yadira Castellanos Garcia Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Josephine Rioba Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Yaima Aquilera Quevedo Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Joyce Bamai Undergrad Theology	University of East Africa-Baraton, Kenya	Yamaris M. Santacruz Undergrad Religious Edu	Adventist University Corporation, Colombia
Joyvial Mweu Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Yobely Mogollon Undergrad Theology	Adventist University Corporation, Colombia
Judith Kulecho Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Yurianny Royero Mohinelo Undergrad Theology	Cuba Adventist Seminary, Cuba
Lucy K Njeru Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda	Zilpah Moraa Akenga Undergrad Theology	Bugema Adventist University, Uganda
Luz Vivanco PhD Theology	Peruvian Union University, Peru		

Thank you for your support for TEAM in 2022!

YAIMA AGUILERA QUEVEDO, CURRENT TEAM RECIPIENT FROM CUBA, IS ATTENDING CUBA ADVENTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



As a child I attended church with my aunt, and at 7 years old I promised the Lord that I would give my life to Him and be baptized. However, my parents objected and by the time I was 14, I stopped going to church. I stayed away for 5 years, but in my heart,

I still longed to give my life to Jesus. Finally, when I was 19 years old, I decided to give my life to Him and was baptized.

Soon after, I married the friend whom I had met at church when I was 7 years old. He has been the greatest help in my life, and together we decided to serve the Lord and His church. I served as Youth Director, in Women's Ministry, Children's Ministry, deaconess, Director of Sabbath School, and Health Ministry.

At the University I studied Internal Medicine and graduated as an MD in 2014. For one year I practiced as a physician in my hometown. Then, on our first vacation, my husband and I participated in a 15-day program called, The School of Light. At the end, we were asked to work as laymen for God. It was a difficult decision, but simple at the same time.

Since 2016, we worked for 3 years as laymen until my husband was accepted as a student at the Seminary. At the next Week of Prayer in our hometown, I was convicted to also study at the Seminary, in order to learn and work alongside my husband for the Lord.

All along the Lord has been patiently preparing me for this new stage in my life. We've had big challenges along the way. I left my work as a physician to study at the Seminary, so we no longer had economic stability. Nevertheless, the Lord is faithful and has never forsaken us.

The first years were difficult, and I had to work on Sundays. But now, thanks to the TEAM donors who are used by the Lord, I have not had to worry about how to pay for my tuition, I have more time to study and to take care of my husband and home.

We are already in our third year, and we wish others would know how much God cares for each of us. The times are in God's hands, and He is in control. Thank you, TEAM, for all the help that has allowed us to move forward. God has put you in our lives to advance the ministry to which we have been called.

THANK YOU FROM TEAM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

"What wonderful news (that TEAM is sending a scholarship). I am so very grateful. Thank you for this beautiful project helping us women theologians. God is great all the time. Blessings to all of you."

Wendy - Peruvian Union University, Peru

"I am a student at Bugema University. I am pleased to inform you that I received the laptop. Once again, I say thank you very much and may God almighty bless you for the tireless service you are going for His people."

Judith - Bugema University, Uganda

"I am so grateful for the scholarship. Thank you so much even as you continue to support me, the laptop is also working well. God bless you."

Bonareri - University of East Africa Baraton, Kenya

"Thank you so very, very, much! God is good all the time and has servants like you that make His work shine here on earth! Glory to His name. Take care, we're here for you."

Annia - Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary, Cuba



EQUALITY

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF WOMEN



SUPPORT

**MARY NYAMBURA, TEAM RECIPIENT,
ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN, KENYATTA
UNIVERSITY, KENYA**



Nyambura was assigned by Central Kenya Conference, in Nairobi, Kenya, as the assistant chaplain at Kenyatta University. She is a TEAM scholarship graduate from Bugema University, Uganda. The University Church has a membership of about 2,000. As a full-time chaplain and the mother of three school-age children she states: "I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support you have accorded to me."



2022 Bugema University, Bugema, Uganda-current TEAM Recipients and Professors

Scholarships

January-April 2022

\$48,350.00

TEAM Recipients through April 2022 - **67**

Other assistance through April 2022 - **\$1,525.00**



See 2021 scholarship recipients at: 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!

Contributions Count

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.

CHECK

Mail to: TEAM,
PO Box 7816,
Langley Park, MD 20787

STOCK DONATIONS

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