

Elisa Rahming

Biographical Sketch

August 9, 2021

Elisa Rahming was born to Edmund and Emily Rahming in Nassau, Bahamas, and is the last of three children. Her siblings and their families: sister, Edlyn married to Darrington with son, Shiloh, and brother, Edmund Jr. married to Devincia with son, Seth, are all very dear to her. Elisa's first memories are of Knoxville, Tennessee, where she and her family lived for five years while her parents were furthering their education at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. When they moved back to the Bahamas, she had the pleasure of growing up five minutes away from the beach. Unbeknown to her at the time, this sparked a deep love of the beach which continues to this day.

She learned about Jesus and His love for her in her early years at home, in Sabbath School at Hillview Seventh-day Adventist Church, and school at Bahamas Academy of Seventh-day Adventist. She was baptized in the ocean at the age of 12 during a crusade held by the late Pastor Gordon Martinborough. Elisa grew up in a business-oriented home and pursued an accounting degree, first at the University of the Bahamas (formerly College of the Bahamas) and then Southern Adventist University. She also earned an MBA degree from Georgia State University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

In her late 20s and early 30s, through a series of providential events, including a relocation to Orlando to serve in the Florida Conference Treasury department, she finally understood that to be successful in her Christian journey, she must be connected to the Vine and be surrendered to Him. Thus she developed a meaningful relationship with God, spending quality time with Him and surrendering to Him daily.

As she grew closer to God, He revealed her life's purpose, which resulted in the following personal mission statement: *Sharing insight, principles, and truths to encourage dreams and closer relationships with God and others.* During her first mission trip to Brazil in 2009, she experienced her first taste of pastoral ministry in sharing truths, preaching her first sermon, and ministering to the members. She was blessed to travel for three other mission trips to Peru, Malawi, and Guam where she shared God's word and saw many accept Jesus as their personal Savior as a result of Him working through her. In 2015, she felt God's call on her life for pastoral ministry while participating in the Holy Land Experience in Orlando for an office event. She was meditatively listening to a Charles Spurgeon sermon and distinctly heard God's call and desire to use her further and deeper in ministry. Today, God is still leading in this direction and purpose as she preaches, teaches, and shares God's love. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Pastoral Ministries from Andrews University and also recently published a 31-day inspirational devotional book entitled, *God, My Strength*. She also currently serves as the Treasurer/CFO of Florida Conference.

Throughout her years, God has always been faithful to Elisa. He has blessed her with a loving family and friend support system that has been her joy and comfort through the ups and downs of life. Many have had, and continue to have, a positive impact on her life and ministry, and have helped to shape her into who she is. Her support system includes her immediate and extended family, friends, mentors, her "family" (friends who are like family) in Orlando, her Florida Conference family—which includes the office and extends throughout the entities, schools, and sisterhood of churches—and her familial communities in the Altamonte Springs SDA Church, West End Adventist Church, Hillview Adventist Church, former teachers and classmates at Bahamas Academy of Seventh-day Adventist, Love Above Everything singles ministry, and many more.

Elisa's favorite Bible text and quote are: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3: 5-6) and, "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children" (Ellen White). Her daily prayer is that the Lord will continue to lead in her life and ministry as she surrenders daily to Him and will daily refresh her with His Holy Spirit.