

HONORARY DEGREE—MAY 2024

Donovan J. Noble

Doctor of Humane Letters

Donovan J. Noble has dedicated his life to working closely with God and serving his fellow man. Born in Mobridge, South Dakota, Noble moved to Oregon in his early life. He attended Milo Adventist Academy and, later, the University of Oregon, where he earned his bachelor's degree in management.

After graduation, Noble entered the United States Air Force, where he received officer training at the School of Military Science in Texas and, subsequently, was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He then moved on to Air Force pilot training in Arizona.

While attending pilot training, Noble had a life-changing spiritual conversion experience and, consequently, requested transfer from active to reserve military status. God opened the way for him to teach Bible, business management and physical education at Minneapolis Junior Academy in Minnesota. At that point, Noble understood the necessity and value of a more formal Christian education. He decided to attend Andrews University, where he was further prepared to lead and live a life of service to others. He obtained an MA in religion in 1980. Noble then moved to Colorado, where he was a counselor and Bible teacher at Mile High Academy. Later, he worked as an executive at Synergy, a management consulting company in Denver.

All these experiences were an important preparation for the major life work that God had arranged for him. Through a series of God-led events, Noble became the president of Maranatha Volunteers International (formerly Maranatha Flights International) in 1983. He continues to serve as president to this day. Under his leadership, Maranatha has constructed over 10,000 churches and over 3,000 classrooms, drilled over 3,500 water wells and participated in over 5,400 miscellaneous projects, including disaster relief housing, repairs and youth camps. The organization has been able to positively impact 88 countries and mobilize nearly 100,000 volunteers in mission service.

Noble has considered it a privilege to work with exceptional church leaders, volunteers and donors around the world. Because of the collaboration between the leadership of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Maranatha Volunteers International, Noble was asked to serve on the Executive Committee of the General Conference for many years.

Noble married his wife, Laura, in Gold Hill, California, in 2001. They adopted their daughter, Jackie Arevalo, and continue a life of service together.

For his ongoing commitment to serve as a catalyst for thousands of volunteers, especially young people, to actively participate in mission opportunities and serve as Christ's hands and feet through building and supporting churches, schools and communities around the world, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Donovan Noble with the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.