



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT
RON AGUILERA

FYI (For Your Information...)

A weekly e-newsletter for employees and friends of the
Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



February 13, 2019



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

February is known for cold weather, presidents' birthdays, and Valentine's Day. Just in case you have forgotten, let me help you, Valentine's Day is tomorrow!



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

Making healthy
disciple-making
churches

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Love, sex and amorous relationships have dominated the news over the past year. Not every culture is as comfortable as ours with public displays of affection. In one Malaysian state, laws "ban immoral acts like kissing, cuddling and other activities." Public kissing there is a \$70 fine. In Venezuela, extended public kissing and embracing can get you arrested. "If you kiss for more than five seconds, the police will grab you," complained one young woman whose friends were jailed. "It's ridiculous," groused a 24-year-old man. "Whoever invented this law must not have a girlfriend." Defining immoral kisses can be difficult admitted one policeman, but "when you see it, you should know it."

This season pundits ponder, "What is genuine love?" Author, Josh McDowell, lists three kinds of love that can inform kids' (and adults') attitudes: love *if*, love *because of*, and love *period*. Love *if* and *because of* are based on personality or performance: "I love you if you go out with me, if you have a good sense of humor, if you sleep with me. I love you because you're attractive, intelligent or athletic."

But the best kind of love says, "I love you period: even with your weaknesses, even if you change, even if someone better looking comes along. Even if you have zoo-breath in the morning. I want to give myself to you."

Paul, an early Christian writer, eloquently described this unconditional love: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no



record of when it has been wronged...Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever.”

Committed unconditional love could probably heal many arguments. Strong spiritual roots that help produce it can help strengthen stable relationships. So, on this Valentine’ Day don’t forget to show and live your unconditional love to those in your life.

I KNOW SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT...

...Southern Illinois Division ACS Disaster Response Agency. They are faithfully serving the community in time of need and representing Jesus by being His hands and feet. Thank you!



ISRAEL / JORDAN TRIP

There will be NO FYI for the next two weeks, as I will be traveling on a Bible Land Tour with some of our pastors and wives. More on the trip upon our return, but the next FYI will be on March 6th.

NEWS

☞ It was recently reported to me that Pathfinder Bible Experience, affectionately known as Bible Bowl, has had great participation by our Conference. The teams have been studying the book of Luke since last September, along with the SDA Bible Commentary introduction. There are four levels of advancement — Area, Conference, Union and Division. Grading is done on a curve, depending on the highest scoring team, and clubs advance based on how they score. Below is a list of participating clubs in Illinois

1st Place

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ángeles Guardiánes de Palatine Team 1 | Eben-Ezer Maranatha Elgin Explorers |
| Fairmont City Cahokians Team 1 | Fox Valley Maranatha |
| Glen Ellyn Fil-Am Masters | Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers Chosen |
| Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers Eye of the Needle | Hinsdale Fil-Am Challengers The Good Samaritans |
| Joliet Hispanic Team C | North Aurora Ambassadors |

2nd Place

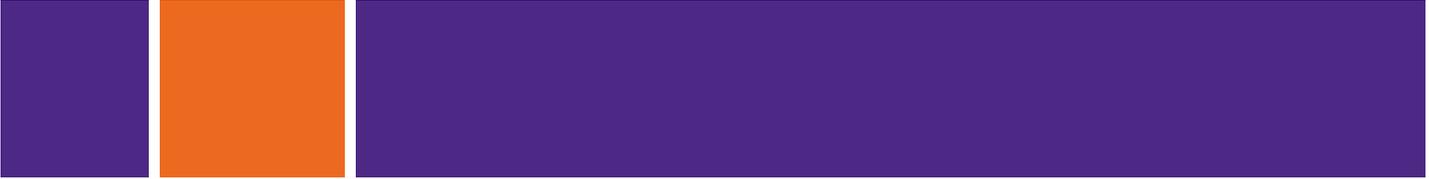
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ángeles Guardianes de Palatine Team 2 | Las Águilas del Sur |
| Orion Ágape | |

3rd Place

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fairmont City Cahokians Team 2 | Joliet Hispanic Team A |
| Joliet Hispanic Team B | Joliet Timberwolves |
| Los Osos de Melrose Park Team A | Los Osos de Melrose Park Team B |
| Pilsen Navigators | |

Way to go, Pathfinders!

☞ NAD tickets to the Pathfinder Camporee at Oshkosh are sold out. If your club still needs tickets, please contact



the Conference office youth department to see if they can connect you with other Pathfinders who may be reselling their tickets.

RESOURCES

☞ **How often do you get a FREE resource?** Here is one--Faithful Stewards, by Walter Brown. This 40-day devotional will guide you through biblical principles of giving, tithing, compassion, generosity and leaning on God to provide what is needed. This booklet is perfect for sharing with church members to help show the importance of whole-life stewardship. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y5j2wr dv>

☞ **Challenged to Love** - This iFollow Bible study explores Paul's words in the famous "love chapter" of 1 Corinthians 13, as well as other parts of Scripture that help us understand the powerful, unconditional, selfless love of God. Discover the countless ways God's love can manifest within our lives today, and how we can help share His love with others. Purchase it at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2qmdthk>

DID YOU KNOW. . .

... ..that over 200 million roses are sold, in the U.S., during the days preceding Valentine's Day?

"Money cannot buy it, intellect cannot grasp it, power cannot command it; but to all who will accept it, God's glorious grace is freely given. But men may feel their need, and, renouncing all self-dependence, accept salvation as a gift. Those who enter heaven will not scale its walls by their own righteousness, nor will its gates be opened to them for costly offerings of gold or silver, but they will gain an entrance to the many mansions of the Father's house through the merits of the cross of Christ."

Ellen G. White—God's Amazing Grace p. 179.



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